



Policy/Legislative Subcommittee Meeting ([agenda](#))
Zoom Virtual Meeting ([recording link](#), passcode: 5?nN7nGH)
Meeting ID: 835 8147 8998
Passcode: 242298
Tuesday, January 18, 2022
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Present:

Anna Siedzik, Chairperson
Michelle Horgan, Secretary

Also Present:

Eric Tracy, District Superintendent
Dorothy Presser, MASC Representative
Mahala Lettvin, Recording Secretary
Marc L. Terry, District Legal Counsel

1. Call to Order

6:00 PM

With a quorum present, Ms. Siedzik calls the *Policy/Legislative Subcommittee* meeting to order at 6:32 PM. This meeting is being held remotely via Zoom. Those present at the meeting include subcommittee members Anna Siedzik and Michelle Horgan, as well as Eric Tracy, District Superintendent, Dorothy Presser, MASC representative, and Marc Terry, District Legal Counsel.

Ms. Siedzik revises the order of the agenda in order to address the Flag Policy as the next order of business. There are no objections.

2. Flag Policy 3rd Reading & Possible Vote (*originally agenda item 3*)

[Exhibit](#)

Mark Terry, District Legal Counsel, reviews his advice surrounding the District's Flag Policy: addition of language surrounding posters and/or other exhibits so the policy is not strictly limited to flag display. There is discussion about this, with Ms. Siedzik agreeing to add bullet point #6 with this language and indicating that approval comes from the "superintendent or designee".

There is some discussion regarding language about chairperson responsibility and cutting out the language "from other parties".

There is discussion regarding the duration of time to display the flag. Ms. Presser and Mr. Terry note that the School Committee is always able to make exceptions to their own policies. The subcommittee agrees that the length of time (paragraph 4) will read "not to exceed 25 school days".

- Strike "from other parties"
- Paragraph 4: "not to exceed 25 school days"
- Add paragraph 6: add language about other displays "subject to approval of the superintendent of schools or designee"

Mr. Terry confirms that the policy is legally sound.

I MOVE THAT THE POLICY/LEGISLATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE APPROVE THE FLAG POLICY TO BE PRESENTED TO THE FULL SCHOOL COMMITTEE WITH THE CHANGES AS DISCUSSED THIS EVENING.

MOTION by Anna Siedzik; SECONDED by Michelle Horgan.

Michelle Horgan YES:

Anna Siedzik YES.

MOTION PASSES unanimously through roll call vote of two (2) members present.

Ms. Siedzik will revise the Flag Policy as discussed this evening. Superintendent Tracy will include the revised policy on the School Committee's 02/03/2022 meeting agenda.

3. Approval of Minutes (originally agenda item 2)

- October 25, 2021

[Exhibit](#)

- ~~November 22, 2021~~

~~[Exhibit](#)~~

Ms. Horgan explains that the 11/22/2021 minutes were provided late in the day today, and as such, she did not have time to review them before tonight's meeting. They will be included on the next subcommittee meeting agenda.

I MOVE THAT THE POLICY/LEGISLATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE APPROVE THE 10/25/2021 POLICY/LEGISLATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES WITH THE REVISED, CORRECTED SPELLING OF ANNA SIEDZIK'S NAME.

MOTION by Michelle Horgan; SECONDED by Anna Siedzik.

Michelle Horgan YES:

Anna Siedzik YES.

MOTION PASSES unanimously through roll call vote of two (2) members present.

4. Discussion of Policies on Protected Classes – Update from MASC

[Exhibit 1](#)

[Exhibit 2](#)

[Exhibit 3](#)

[Exhibit 4](#)

Ms. Presser explains that the protected classes discussion will be ready for the next subcommittee meeting.

5. Ongoing Review of School Committee Policies – Starting at J

[Exhibit](#)

Ms. Siedzik found Ms. Presser's comments and summary of policy section changes very helpful. Ms. Presser will continue providing these summaries before the subcommittee meetings.

JB EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Ms. Presser does not believe the district currently has a similar policy, however, she believes this is an important consideration for the district, and this is also important to consider alongside the protected classes list.

Ms. Horgan and Ms. Siedzik agree that this policy should be adopted, and updated with the protected classes when that becomes available/finalized.

JBB EDUCATIONAL EQUITY

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This policy serves as an addition to JB, there is a brief discussion regarding equality versus equity. Ms. Siedzik asks Mr. Tracy if he is comfortable with the directive written in this policy (to include in the strategic plan), Mr. Tracy believes it is important to keep this language and is comfortable keeping the policy as is. Discussion about whether language is necessary, if this is second nature to the school committee. Siedzik says since this is a large focus right now, it may seem redundant, but it may be helpful to have it written out moving forward. No changes or objections.

JC ATTENDANCE AREAS

JCA STUDENT ASSIGNMENT (HW)

JCA ASSIGNMENT OF STUDENTS TO SCHOOLS (MASC)

JCAA ELEMENTARY STUDENT PLACEMENT

There is some discussion regarding the geographical and other considerations in placing students. There is discussion regarding which policy most closely aligns with the district's current practices, with Mr. Tracy pointing out some of the language included in the policies above seem to be more procedural. The subcommittee agrees:

- Use the district's current version of JCA, with the following revision:
 - Rename JCA-R;
 - Keep the first sentence;
 - Strike bullet points 1 and 2;
 - Strike the word policy;
 - Remove the "policy review and revision" section;
 - Make the "procedure and financial implication" section bullet point # 7;
 - Remove the "sources and review" section.

JEB ENTRANCE AGE (HW)

JEB ENTRANCE AGE (MASC)

There is a short discussion about this policy and possible exceptions or anticipated exceptions. The subcommittee agrees to adopt the MASC version to replace the district's current version.

JF SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

JFAA ADMISSION OF RESIDENT STUDENTS

Adopt both policies, striking the second line about vaccinations.

JFAB ADMISSION OF NON-RESIDENT STUDENTS

Remove bullet point #6, as this is no longer the district's practice. The gender specific language will be revised to reflect gender neutral language. This will be revisited in more detail when Ms. Presser finds policies from other districts, and they can adopt certain clauses as appropriate

JFABA POTENTIAL RESIDENTS

Ms. Presser recommends revisiting this policy, as she checked with DESE and the only time the district may charge tuition is for out of state students. Ms. Presser advises to strike this completely. Agreed.

JFABAA INVESTIGATION OF REPORTED OR SUSPECTED NON-RESIDENTS

Agree to strike this completely.

JFABB INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE STUDENTS

Ms. Presser points out some considerations surrounding this policy and there is some discussion about

districts current practices and best practices. There is a fairly lengthy discussion about this policy, with many revisions agreed upon before the realization that everything after bullet point 2 can be removed. It is agreed to remove everything beginning from bullet point 2 down.

JFABC ADMISSION OF TRANSFER STUDENTS

Ms. Presser explains that this policy deals with charter schools, and recommends adding the legal reference. Agreed to add the legal references as highlighted in the exhibit.

6. Other Items Not Anticipated by the Chair

None.

7. Next Meeting Date – February 28, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

Agenda items for the 02/28/2022 meeting include:

- Revisit JFAB;
- Pickup ongoing policy review of Section J, beginning at JFAB-D.

Future meetings include 03/21/2022 and 04/11/2022.

8. Adjournment

I MOVE THAT THE POLICY/LEGISLATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE ADJOURN THE 01/18/2022 MEETING AT 7:58 PM.

MOTION by Anna Siedzik SECONDED by Michelle Horgan.

Michelle Horgan YES;

Anna Siedzik YES.

MOTION PASSES unanimously through roll call vote of two (2) members present.

Respectfully submitted February 28, 2022 by Mahala Lettvin, Recording Secretary.

Per Governor Baker’s order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A § 20, the public will not be allowed to physically access this School Committee meeting. The School Committee reserves the right to implement additional remote participation procedures and will notify the public of these procedures as soon as practicable. Please [click here](#) to read the Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, § 20.

*Zoom App Information: If you plan to participate, download the [Zoom.com](#) application now. The option to download will also be available at the start of the meeting. When opening the Zoom App, select “Join Meeting” in the upper right corner and enter the meeting id: Meeting ID: 835 8147 8998; Passcode: 242298. The community should ask questions via the “chat” function within the Zoom application during the Citizen’s Comments section. During the Zoom meeting, participants will be given instructions on how to provide their comments. Unfortunately, we must limit the in-person conversations to just the Committee members. However, for the benefit of all, the School Committee meetings will be available on our local cable channel, HWCam, and [HWCam.org](#), for review a few hours after the meeting has ended. Members of the Public can access the meeting via [YouTube HWRSD live stream link](#) the next day.