

Coventry Board of Education
Coventry, Connecticut

Policy Committee Meeting
Approved Minutes of November 05, 2020
Remote/Electronic

Committee Members Present:

William Oros, Policy Chair
Eugene Marchand
Barbara Paré
Jennifer Beausoleil, Board Chair

I. Call to Order

W. Oros called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

II. VOTE: Approve the Minutes from September 1, 2020

MOTION: Approve Policy Committee Minutes from September 1, 2020

By: E. Marchand

Seconded: B. Pare

Result: Motion passes unanimously

III. Policy Revisions - Based on Shipman and Goodwin Recommendations

A. 4116.2 - Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment

W. Oros asked for any comments. B. Paré said she believes it is very straight forward. E. Marchand noted the language in regard to participation in sports for transgender students. Dr. Petrone said it is important to have this in place legally.

There was consensus to move the policy forward.

B. 5131 - Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment

W. Oros asked for questions. B. Paré said she saw no concerns. E. Marchand had no questions.

There was consensus to move the policy forward.

C. 5132 - Student Dress

W. Oros reviewed the changes to this policy. Dr. Petrone said these items have always been our radar and is in line with our diversity work. B. Paré said this is good to put in writing. There was a discussion about what might be included, such as items on cars. Dr. Petrone said if it is disruptive to the educational process it is within the discretion of the administration to address it.

There was consensus to move the policy forward.

IV. Policies for Discussion

A. 5130.1 – Home Instruction and Participation in School Activities by Non-Students

E. Marchand said it is a CIAC regulation that homeschooled students are not allowed to participate in regulated sports. Dr. Petrone said that went into effect directly following the first discussion. J. Beausoleil said there were other extra-curricular activities outside of sports that were discussed.

There was consensus to send the policy forward.

B. 5146 - Physical Activity and Student Discipline

W. Oros said this is state law and we are codifying the law within our policy. Dr. Petrone explained student discipline related to recess.

There was consensus to move the policy forward.

C. 9111.3 – ByLaw Social Media for Board Members

The Committee reviewed the different drafts available. The Committee focused on the in-house version.

B. Paré said she agrees with it, but at the same time she wishes it didn't have to be there. J. Beausoleil said she understands; the Board members are also the employers, which intensifies their position and role.

The Committee discussed various scenarios where this policy might come into play. B. Paré said interpretation and enforcement comes in to play once they are in place; who does that fall on? J. Beausoleil said there is no way to remove someone from the Board of Education, unless they are no longer able to serve. She said the Board can only vote to censure a member. She said another issue would be if a law was broken.

There was consensus to move it forward. W. Oros asked for some clarification regarding who would enforce the policy.

D. 9150 - Chairperson

Dr. Petrone explained that all Board members can contact the Superintendent, but this was meant to streamline the process. B. Paré said she does not agree with the first sentence of #8, because of the spirit of the language. J. Beausoleil said it is important that Board members do not start commenting or making demands to staff members on their own. Dr. Petrone said this is becoming a major issue statewide and the professional organizations are trying to get a handle on it; much of the turnover of superintendents is due to this type of behavior. B. Paré said she understands that and said she is appreciative of the conversation, but again, did not think it was necessary language.

W. Oros and E. Marchand were supportive of moving it forward.

MOTION: The whole policy 9150 go to the Board as written

By: E. Marchand

Seconded: W. Oros

Result: Motion passes 2-1 (B. Paré against)

E. 9368 – ByLaw Meeting Conduct

J. Beausoleil said her notes were that the Board did not wish to continue electronic meetings once the pandemic ends. B. Paré said she did not recall, but is in favor of electronic meetings during the pandemic, but acknowledges the value of in-person meetings when possible.

Dr. Petrone talked about the challenges and expenses of conducting remote meetings. The Committee continued to discuss various means of electronic equipment used in meetings and related challenges. J. Beausoleil suggested "telephone" be removed as an option. B. Paré agreed. E. Marchand said he agrees, but he noted one time a telephone was used and needed during the Student rep interviews.

B. Paré said she didn't realize this would mean electronic meetings would be an option for the future beyond the pandemic. J. Beausoleil confirmed for the group that electronic meetings during a pandemic are covered by the governor's executive orders; this language would be added so electronic meetings could take place at any time (after the pandemic ends).

There was consensus not to bring the changes forward.

B. Paré had to leave the meeting; she had no concerns regarding the remaining items. Barbara left the meeting (5:09 p.m.).

V. Policies to Consider for Approval, Revision, or Deletion

A. NEW Policy: Advertising

Dr. Petrone said Shipman and Goodwin are working on an advertising policy for the Committee to consider.

B. DELETION: 2111 - Superintendent Duties

There was consensus to bring the deletion of the antiquated policy forward to the full Board.

C. NEW Policy - 4112 - Hiring of Certified Staff

There was consensus to bring this policy forward.

D. NEW Policy 4112.1 - Hiring of Non Certified Staff

There was consensus to bring this policy forward.

E. REVISION: 9140 - Committees

J. Beausoleil reviewed the changes to this policy, which were mostly bookkeeping in nature. There was consensus to move this forward.

VI. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 5:14 p.m.

By: E. Marchand

Seconded: J. Beausoleil

Result: Motion passes unanimously

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberlee Arey Delorme
Board Clerk

Approved: August 12, 2021