

**BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**
Spaulding High School Library and Via Video Conference – Google Meet
October 17, 2022 – 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chris Parker, Chair (BT)
Giuliano Cecchinelli, II, Vice Chair (BC)
Tim Boltin (BC)
Alice Farrell (BT)
Jon Valsangiacomo – (BT Community Member)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Thomas Kelly (BC Community Member)

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Nancy Leclerc
Terry Reil

ADMINISTRATORS AND STAFF PRESENT:

Chris Hennessey, Superintendent
Luke Aither, SHS Co-Principal
Pierre Laflamme, BCEMS Principal

GUESTS:

Josh Howard Andy McMichael William Toborg

1. Call to Order

The Chair, Ms. Parker, called the Monday, October 17, 2022, meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., which was held at the Spaulding High School Library and via video conference - Google Meet.

2. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda

None.

3. Public Comment

Concern was voiced that Policy E1 (Title I) is not on the October Agenda. VSBA indicates the policy was changed on 09/24/21, which means the District has been out of compliance for over a year. Policy E1 will be added to the November Agenda.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1 Approval of Minutes – August 15, 2022 Policy Committee Meeting

On a motion by Mrs. Farrell, seconded by Mr. Cecchinelli, the Committee unanimously agreed to approve the Minutes of the August 15, 2022 Policy Committee Meeting.

5. New Business

5.1 Review of BUUSD Policy Manual Index

A copy of the BUUSD Policy Manual Index (dated 10/12/22) was distributed.

In response to a query regarding the location of the indexes, it was noted that these working files are maintained by Mrs. Gilbert (not currently public documents).

5.2 VSBA Model Policy Index Review

A copy of the VSBA Model Policy Index was distributed.

A document titled ‘VSBA Policy Work – BUUSD Status – Updated 10/12/22’ was distributed.

In response to a query regarding how policies are selected or review, Ms. Parker advised that some come from the Parking Lot, some from the VSBA website (recently updated list), and some are noted by Mr. Hennessey and Mr. Aither based on changes and needs of the District. Mrs. Farrell queried regarding a review of the entire list, and possible identification of policies that may have been overlooked or older policies that may need to be updated. Ms. Parker advised that the District can request that VSBA do a policy review for the District. Additionally, VSBA can advise regarding upcoming work. It was noted that the District is far ahead of most districts, as a benefit of the extensive review facilitated by Mr. Pandolfo in preparation for Act 46 consolidation.

5.3 Admission of Resident Students Policy (C31) – Consider – VSBA Removed

A copy of the policy was distributed.

Ms. Parker advised that VSBA is removing this policy from their manual because it is covered under statute. Brief discussion was held, including discussion of ‘adult’ students, and procedures for families to prove residency.

On a motion by Mr. Valsangiacomo, seconded by Mr. Cecchinelli, the Committee unanimously voted to recommend to the Board that Policy C31 be rescinded (deleted).

5.4 Eighteen Year-Old Students Policy (C32) – Consider – VSBA Removed

A copy of the policy was distributed.

Ms. Parker advised regarding VSBA’s removal of this policy. Brief discussion was held.

On a motion by Mrs. Farrell, seconded by Mr. Cecchinelli, the Committee unanimously voted to recommend to the Board that the policy be rescinded (deleted).

5.5 Electronic Surveillance Policy (F26) – Recommended

A copy of the policy was distributed.

Mr. Aither provided a brief overview of the need to revise this policy due to CVCC becoming a separate school district (renting a portion of the SHS building from the BUUSD). Mr. Aither advised that the amended policy has been legally vetted.

On a motion by Mrs. Farrell, seconded by Mr. Valsangiacomo, the Committee unanimously voted to approve Policy F26 as amended and to present it to the Board for a First Reading.

5.6 Public Participation at Board Meetings (A21) – Recommended

A copy of the policy was distributed.

A document titled ‘VLCT Mode Rules of Procedure for Municipal Boards, Committees, and Commissions’ was distributed.

Mr. Cecchinelli advised that while reading this document, he believes it is more detailed than what is contained in policy, and thought it might be beneficial to amend Policy A21 to include some of these details. Mr. Cecchinelli believes the document covers issues that have been problematic for the Board, including information pertaining to public meeting laws. Discussion included section C5 which states that a motion will only pass if it receives the votes of a majority of the total membership of the body. It was noted that this document appears to conflict with Robert’s Rules which sometimes has other ratios for the passing of motions (e.g. 2/3 majority for some types of motions), and that Robert’s Rules passes votes based on those present at the meeting, not the total membership of the body. Concern was voiced related to including procedures within the policy. Concern was raised that the Board wants policies to match VSBA policies as much as possible and adding this information conflicts with that. Concern was raised that public participation should be the least restrictive as possible and any methods to further restrict public input would be detrimental. It was noted that the Board Chair is supposed to know the rules on how to operate meetings. If meetings are not being run efficiently, the Board Chair should have additional training. It was suggested that legal counsel review the document. It was suggested that the Board hold discussion on possibly having this document be a procedure. It was noted that most of the document pertains to procedural operations of the Board rather than policy. Mr. Aither advised that administrators on the Procedures Committee are working on section C (student related policies). Ms. Parker suggested that Mr. Hennessey have legal counsel review the document.

5.7 Policy on Non-discriminatory Mascots and School Branding Policy (F2) – Required – New VSBA Policy

Copies of the VSBA Model Policy and a draft of the BUUSD Policy were distributed.

Ms. Parker noted that this is a new VSBA policy effective August 2022. Brief discussion was held and it was noted that the District is not responsible for ‘policing’ of mascots of other schools (even though they may be present on BUUSD property). In response to a query, it was noted that the Board is responsible for determining what is/is not discriminatory. If a complaint to the Board is not resolved to a complainant’s satisfaction, they can appeal to the Agency of Education. A few minor formatting amendments were suggested and agreed to.

On a motion by Mrs. Farrell, seconded by Mr. Valsangiacomo, the Committee unanimously voted to approve Policy F2 with amendments as discussed, and to present the policy to the Board for a First Reading.

5.8 STI and Pregnancy Prevention Policy (C43) – BUUSD Policy

A copy of the policy was distributed.

Ms. Parker noted that Policy C43 is a local policy and that it is covered in statute. Mr. Hennessey advised that the policy appears to be redundant to statute and agrees that the policy should be rescinded. In response to a query, it was noted that the District’s definition of secondary school (high school) differs from statute (7 – 12). Statute clearly defines what grades cannot be subject to opting out.

On a motion by Mr. Valsangiacomo, seconded by Mr. Cecchinelli, the Committee unanimously voted to recommend to the Board that Policy C43 be rescinded (deleted).

6. Old Business

6.1 Use of Restraint and Seclusion Policy (C70) – Recommended – Replaces Policy C34

A copy of existing BUUSD policy C34 was distributed. A copy of a draft of policy C70 was distributed.

Ms. Parker advised that VSBA changed the coding of the policy to reflect it being changed from a 'to be considered' policy, to a 'recommended' policy, and noted that VSBA has changed the coding structure to allow for expansion of the number of policies in the 'recommended' category (20 – 29 and 70 – 79). Ms. Parker noted that the definitions section differs from the current policy, as it does not list the narrative definitions. Mr. Hennessey advised that though the reporting requirements for '4500' have been changed, he does not believe the premise of the statute has changed. The Committee agreed to a minor amendment to 'Section 2. Definitions'. Mrs. Farrell queried regarding how rule 4500 is distributed to staff. Mr. Laflamme advised that all paperwork that has to be filled out, has the information spelled out. Brief discussion was held regarding required annual reporting by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Mr. Farrell, seconded by Mr. Valsangiacomo, the Committee unanimously voted to amend Policy C70 as discussed, and to present the Policy to the Board for a First Reading.

7. Other Business

None.

8. Future Agenda Items

Brief discussion was held regarding Policy C28 - Transgender and Gender Non-conforming Students, and it was agreed not to review this policy until VSBA has completed their review of the policy.

November:

C27 – Student Distribution of Literature Policy

C13 – Students Who Are Homeless Policy

A22 – Notice of Non-Discrimination Policy

E1 – Title I, Part A: Parent and Family Engagement Policy

A33 – School visits by Board Members Policy

A34 – Board Relations with School Personnel Policy

D32 – Selection of Instructional Materials Policy

D22 – Selection of Library Materials Policy

9. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is Monday, November 21, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. at the Spaulding High School Library and via video conference.

10. Adjournment

On a motion by Mrs. Farrell, seconded by Mr. Cecchinelli, the Committee unanimously agreed to adjourn at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Poulin