

DRAFT

BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Spaulding High School Library and Via Video Conference – Google Meet
April 19, 2023 – 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chris Parker, Chair (BT)
Emily Reynolds, Vice Chair (BT)
Michael Boutin (BC) –
Thomas Kelly (BC Community Member) joined
Jon Valsangiacomo – (BT Community Member)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Giuliano Cecchinelli

ADMINISTRATORS AND STAFF PRESENT:

Chris Hennessey, Superintendent
Luke Aither, SHS Co-Principal

GUESTS:

Joelen Mulvaney Jan Trepanier

1. Call to Order

The Chair, Ms. Parker, called the Wednesday, April 19, 2023, 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

Add 5.3 VSBA Policy Audit

3. Public Comment

None.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1 Approval of Minutes – March 20, 2023 Policy Committee Meeting

On a motion by Ms. Reynolds, seconded by Mr. Valsangiacomo, the Committee unanimously agreed to approve, as amended, the Minutes of the March 20, 2023 Policy Committee Meeting.

5. New Business

5.1 Review of BUUSD Policy Manual Index

A copy of the BUUSD Policy Manual Index (dated 04/11/23) was distributed.

Ms. Parker noted that there are a number of policies that will be presented to the Board in the near future, and also advised that some procedures have been added.

5.2 Teaching and Instructional Materials for Sensitive Issues Policy (D40)

A copy of the draft local policy was distributed.

Ms. Parker advised that a new local policy (D40) is being considered due to recent changes to VSBA Model policy D32 (which does not address sensitive issues). Legal counsel advised that it is not necessary to have this policy, and that his only concern was that #6 has the potential to cause issues relating to opting out of, and being provided with an alternative experience for sensitive issues.

Mr. Aither advised that the opt-out / alternative experience is in the District's current policy and has not posed an issue.

Accommodations have been provided to students who request an alternative experience, and the requests are generally centered around trauma related issues. Several Committee Members expressed support for the draft policy as written. It was noted that the page number should be removed. Joelen Mulvaney addressed the Committee and provided an overview of "Safe Spaces to Brave Spaces" (A New Way to Frame Dialogue Around Diversity and Social Justice – by Brian Arao and Kristi Clemens). Ms. Mulvaney provided additional details regarding an upcoming Talking Circle and invited administrators to attend.

On a motion by Mr. Valsangiacomo, seconded by Mr. Boutin, the Committee unanimously voted to present the Board with a First Reading of the Teaching and Instructional Materials for Sensitive Issues Policy (D40).

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5.3 VSBA Policy Audit

Mr. Hennessey advised regarding a Policy Audit / Diagnostic Scan offered by VSBA. Sandra Cameron (VSBA) is willing to provide the Committee with an overview of the process which involves an audit/scan for all Required and Recommended policies. The cost is \$750 for each component (Required and Recommended), for a total cost of \$1500. The process includes providing the District with information relating to strengths, weaknesses, and steps necessary to get policies into compliance with the law. Brief discussion was held and the Committee agreed to invite Sandra Cameron to the May meeting. After discussion at the meeting, the Committee will make a decision regarding a recommendation to the Board. Mr. Hennessey will contact Ms. Cameron regarding her availability to attend the May meeting.

6. Old Business

None.

7. Other Business

None.

8. Future Agenda Items

May meeting:

VSBA Policy Audit (with Sandra Cameron)

B3 – Alcohol and Drug Free Work Place Policy

B7 – Tobacco Prohibition Policy

Add to Parking Lot:

C2 – Student Drugs and Alcohol Policy (Added by Mr. Aither – April 2023)

9. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is Wednesday, May 17, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the Spaulding High School Library and via video conference.

10. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Valsangiacomo, seconded by Mr. Kelly, the Committee unanimously agreed to adjourn at 6:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Poulin