

DRAFT

BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Spaulding High School Library and Via Video Conference – Google Meet
May 17, 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)
Jon Valsangiacomo – (BT Community Member)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

ADMINISTRATORS AND STAFF PRESENT:

Chris Hennessey, Superintendent

GUESTS:

Ellen Kaye Joellen Mulvaney

1. Call to Order

The Chair, Ms. Parker, called the Wednesday, May 17, 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

None.

3. Public Comment

Ms. Mulvaney addressed the Committee, advising of a racial incident that occurred in 2004; a suit was filed by the parents of the student, and she believes that there were conditions put in place by the courts as part of the settlement. Ms. Mulvaney believes that part of the settlement included the addition of anti-racism curriculum at the schools (for all students). Ms. Mulvaney provided some historical information regarding the implementation of anti-racism curriculum, and advised that an additional part of the settlement, was that there would also be training provided to teaching staff. Ms. Mulvaney is requesting that the Committee look into what from the settlement agreement is still in place, and to assure that training is in place for teachers and other staff.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1 Approval of Minutes – April 19, 2023 Policy Committee Meeting

On a motion by Mr. Boutin, seconded by Mr. Valsangiacomo, the Committee unanimously agreed to approve the Minutes of the April 19, 2023 Policy Committee Meeting.

5. New Business

5.1VSBA Policy Audit Discussion with Mrs. Cameron

Mrs. Cameron is not available to attend this evening's meeting. Mr. Hennessey advised regarding available options; 1. Mrs. Cameron can attend the next Policy Committee meeting, 2. Mrs. Cameron can have a discussion with the Board Chair and Policy Committee Chair (advising regarding what an audit would entail). Mr. Hennessey believes that given where the District is, he does not believe it would be worth the \$1,500 expense to have an audit performed. Mr. Valsangiacomo would like to know if Mrs. Cameron has reviewed the District's Policy Manual Index, and how the audit 'measures' the status of the District's policies. After brief discussion, it was agreed to move forward with option 2, with the Policy Manual Index being shared with Mrs. Cameron prior to the telephone conference.

5.2 Review of BUUSD Policy Manual Index

A copy of the BUUSD Policy Manual Index (dated 05/12/23) was distributed.

Mr. Hennessey advised that there is nothing new to highlight. The District is starting to 'plug in holes' regarding links to procedures. The document is a 'live' document. Once the document is filled in more completely, it will be posted on the District's web site.

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5.3 Alcohol and Drug Free Workplace Policy (B3) Required

Copies of the BUUSD and VSBA policies were distributed.

Ms. Parker provided a brief overview. Mr. Boutin queried regarding the lack of the 'Employer Responsibilities' section. Ms. Parker noted that in the next policy, VSBA moved that section to a different part of the policy. The lack of Employer Responsibilities in Policy B3 may have just been an oversight on the part of VSBA. Brief discussion was held regarding the process for Committee action (voting or by consensus). This issue may need to be discussed at the Board level.

On a motion by Mr. Boutin, seconded by Ms. Reynolds, the Committee unanimously voted to approve the policy, with the Employer Responsibility sentence added to the Policy section, and to submit the Alcohol and Drug Free Workplace Policy (B3) to the Board for a First Reading.

5.4 Tobacco Prohibition Policy (B7) Required

Copies of the BUUSD and VSBA policies were distributed.

Ms. Parker provided a brief overview of the policy. Mr. Boutin queried regarding why the policy does not include any verbiage related to parental notification. Mr. Hennessey advised that parental notification is more of a procedural matter, and procedures are in place. In response to a query, Mr. Hennessey provided clarification regarding the definition of 'areas adjacent to schools'.

On a motion by Mr. Boutin, seconded by Mr. Valsangiacomo, the Committee unanimously voted to approve the policy as presented and to submit the Tobacco Prohibition Policy (B7) to the Board for a First Reading.

6. Old Business

None.

7. Other Business

Mr. Valsangiacomo advised that he has watched some of the anti-bias/anti-racism training, and he encourages other Committee Members to do the same.

8. Future Agenda Items

June meeting:

- Child Nutrition Act Wellness Policy (C9) – Parking Lot Item B
- Proficiency Base Learning Policy (D1) – Parking Lot Item C
- Policy Audit Discussion

Update Parking Lot Item A: Add that this item was added by Mr. Aither – regarding definition of 'drug' – address in summer 2023.

Mr. Valsangiacomo cautioned that changes to the definition of 'drug' should be vetted by legal counsel, and that it is his understanding that the Committee wanted clarification of 'drug' to be incorporated into the policy prior to the start of the 2023/2024 academic year.

The Committee was cautioned that the adoption of policies does take significant time (Committee review, legal vetting, First and Second Readings), so policies that are needed for the next academic year will need to be worked on sooner rather than later.

9. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is Wednesday, June 21, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the Spaulding High School Library and via video conference.

10. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Boutin, seconded by Ms. Reynolds, the Committee unanimously agreed to adjourn at 6:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Poulin