



**Policy Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, October 20, 2021**

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Attendees: Dr. William McKersie, Doreen Bucher, Dr. Damaris-Lois Lang, Alex Dal Piaz, Maureen Caraballo

The meeting was called to order at 3:32 p.m.

Dr. McKersie began the meeting with the Code of Conduct Review, he went over the comments and updates that have been redlined in the new draft code of conduct and he noted that the BOE is to decide whether they accept the changes or not. He also advised that the Code of Conduct is required to be reviewed yearly. Noted that Counsel reviewed and amended the gender sexuality language to reflect language as required by the state.

Alexander DalPiaz questioned the line allowing hat wearing in classrooms. Stated that it was never allowed and wondered why this changed. His preference would be to keep the no hat wearing in class. The committee discussed the pros and cons of allowing it. Bill noted it was removed because it was not being enforced, and stated that he would circle back with the administration to clarify how or why it was removed.

Dr. Lang stated that color needs to be understood as skin color within the policy. Where we modify gender and race we should also modify color. It is being confused as race, but they need to be differentiated. We should also add color as a definition.

D. Lang also brought up DASA and the need to look into restorative justice. Asked how something becomes a DASA case. Dr. McKersie explained it is the legal framework from the state from which we operate and suggested the administration provide further explanation to the Board as to what DASA entails and provide a deeper understanding of how it works. He also suggested they explain to the Board and community how we function from a disciplinary standpoint. What is DASA? How are we approaching discipline in the schools? Dr. McKersie suggests we allow the administration to provide the data and then look at it from that standpoint to determine next steps. Doreen Bucher added that it would be interesting to see where the issues are arising. Are they

around race, gender, etc.? This way we can quantify the issues we mostly face, not just how they are addressed.

Dr. Lang questioned why discrimination within the code of conduct was not explicitly noted under the Board and or teachers. Dr. McKersie pointed out that Section 4 Central partners covers this.

Dr. McKersie will be looking into the question regarding hat wearing, definition for color as well as DASA - How do we set up information sharing? What is DASA? What is the data that relates to DASA? Dr. McKersie suggested having the code of conduct up for the 1st read at the upcoming meeting.

Committee reviewed and discussed the policy nos. 1235, 1400, 1420 and 1500. No changes were needed for policy 1400. Doreen Bucher suggested Policy 1420 committee reference include the Department Chair and/or Assistant Superintendent of C&I. Maureen Caraballo to review Policy 1500 with Joe Martorano. Committee agreed to bring policy nos. 1234, 1420 and 1500 forward for 1st reading at the October 25th Board of Education meeting.

Policies to be reviewed at the next policy committee meeting scheduled for Wednesday, November 17th will be Policy No. 1130 - Social Media, Policy No. 0105 - Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Policy No. 4315 - Curriculum Areas in Conflict with Religious Beliefs.

Meeting Minutes for the September 15th Policy Committee meeting were reviewed and approved by the committee.

Meeting adjourned at 4:59 PM

*Melissa DeLaBarrera*

Submitted by:  
Melissa DeLaBarrera  
District Clerk