

**BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**

Spaulding High School Library and Via Video Conference – Google Meet
June 21, 2023 – 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Thomas Kelly (BC Community Member)

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Giuliano Cecchinelli

ADMINISTRATORS AND STAFF PRESENT:

Chris Hennessey, Superintendent
Luke Aither, SHS Co-Principal

GUESTS:

Josh Howard

1. Call to Order

The Chair, Ms. Parker, called the Wednesday, June 21, 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

There were no changes to the Agenda.

3. Public Comment

None.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1 Approval of Minutes – May 17, 2023 Policy Committee Meeting

On a motion by Mr. Boutin, seconded by Mr. Valsangiacomo the Committee unanimously agreed to approve the Minutes of the May 17, 2023 Policy Committee Meeting.

5. New Business

5.1 VSBA Policy Audit Discussion with Mrs. Cameron

Mrs. Cameron is not available to attend this evening's meeting. Mr. Hennessey advised that the BUUSD Policy Manual Index has been shared with Mrs. Cameron. Brief discussion was held and it was agreed that Mr. Hennessey, Mr. Cecchinelli, and Ms. Parker will have a conversation with Mrs. Cameron, and then make a decision on whether or not to have her attend a meeting.

5.2 Review of BUUSD Policy Manual Index

A copy of the BUUSD Policy Manual Index (dated 06/12/23) was distributed.

Ms. Parker noted that she has not identified anything in the Index that needs to be addressed in the near future. There were no questions from the Committee.

5.3 VSBA Policy Notes

A document titled VSBA Policy Notes – BUUSD Policy Committee 2022 – 2023, was distributed.

A copy of a letter from Sue Ceglowski, VSBA Executive Director (dated 06/01/23) was distributed.

Ms. Parker advised that the document includes information relating to policies being discussed at this evening's meeting.

Mr. Aither highlighted the letter from VSBA that advises that policies F3 and F4 need to be adopted by 08/01/23.

5.4 Child Nutrition Act Wellness Policy (C9) Required

Copies of the current, edited, and VSBA Model policies were distributed.

Ms. Parker advised that the District currently has Policy C9 in place (adopted 06/13/19) and that VSBA amended the policy on 10/11/19. The policy is presented this evening to assure alignment with the VSBA Model Policy. It was noted that to align the BUUSD policy with the Model Policy will require a lot of changes. Mr. Aither proposes that the policy be reviewed by SHAC (Student Health Advisory Committee), prior to taking action. Brief discussion was held. Mr. Boutin advised that he does not want the 'obesity' portion removed from the policy. Additional discussion was held regarding ala carte options. Concern was voiced regarding some of the options. It was noted that ala carte options do meet Federal Food Program Guidelines. **It was agreed to put the policy on hold until November or December to give the SHAC Committee time to review it. The Policy will be added to the Parking Lot.**

5.5 Proficiency Based Learning Policy (D1)

Copies of the current, edited, and VSBA Model policies were distributed.

Ms. Parker advised that the District does have a Policy D1 in place (adopted 06/13/19). VSBA amended the Model Policy 03/03/20. Mr. Hennessey advised that Administrators will be reviewing this policy over the summer. Mr. Aither advised that the AOE is also currently reviewing proficiency based learning and may be implementing some changes in the future. **After brief discussion, it was agreed to add this item to the Parking Lot for discussion at a future meeting.**

5.6 Policy on Nondiscriminatory Mascots and School Branding (F2) Required

Copies of the current and VSBA Model policies were distributed.

Ms. Parker advised that the District does have this required policy in place (adopted 11/10/22). Both the BUUSD and VSBA policies are the same. No action is necessary.

5.7 Fire and Emergency Preparedness Drills Policy (F3) Required

Copies of a draft version and the VSBA Model policy were distributed.

Ms. Parker advised regarding the policy versions included in the packet.

Mr. Boutin moved to send a First Reading of Policy F3 to the Board. Ms. Reynolds seconded the motion.

Mr. Aither advised that he has many concerns regarding this policy. Mr. Hennessey suggests that the District review the policy in terms of procedures the District currently has in place and amend the procedures as appropriate. Mr. Aither would prefer to adopt the policy with only the "Policy Statement" section, and that the remaining VSBA verbiage be removed. Mr. Aither does not believe the Definitions and Administrative Responsibilities are necessary, and back administrators into a corner. Mr. Aither believes the Administrative Responsibilities are procedures. Mr. Aither is concerned with AR #3 which requires parental notification not later than one school day before an options-based response drill is conducted, noting that in AR #1, fire-drills are listed as an option-based drill (which conflicts with the definition of Options-Based Response Drill in the Definitions section). Mr. Hennessey advised that the administrative team is invested in 'getting things right'.

Mr. Boutin amended his motion to; send a First Reading of Policy F3 to the Board, including only the 'Statement of Policy', and removing the 'Definitions' and 'Administrative Responsibilities' sections. Ms. Reynolds agreed with the amendment.

Mr. Hennessey advised that it may be beneficial for administrators to provide presentations to the Board in the fall. Mr. Aither advised that changes have happened with the A.L.I.C.E Program. (Alert, Lock-down, Inform, Counter, Evacuate). When the District adopted the A.L.I.C.E. Program, the program was flexible. Since then, the Program has been purchased by another entity and is now copy-written, and is no longer flexible. Teaching of the program is no longer flexible and does not include trauma informed training. Over the summer, administrators will be discussing changing to a different 'Program'. In response to a query, the Committee agreed that the amended policy does not need to be legally vetted. The First Reading will need to occur at the 06/28/23 Board meeting.

On a motion by Mr. Boutin, seconded by Ms. Reynolds, the Committee unanimously voted to send a First Reading of Policy F3 to the Board, including only the 'Statement of Policy', and removing the 'Definitions' and 'Administrative Responsibilities' sections.

5.8 Access Control and Visitor Management Policy (F4) Required (Replaces F25 and E32)

Copies of a draft version (F24) and the VSBA Model policy (F24) were distributed.

A copy of Policy F25 was also distributed. The District does not have policy E32 in place.

Once F4 is adopted, F25 will need to be rescinded. Mr. Aither wants to have the draft policy amended to include only the 'Statement of Policy' section and to remove the Definitions and Administrative Responsibilities sections. Brief discussion was held regarding administrative work over the summer and to have a presentation made to the Board in the fall. Notes should be added to the Policy Manual Index. It was noted that the District does have F25 (VSBA Recommended Policy) in place and some districts have nothing in place to address access control and visitor management (the policy was changed from a recommended policy to a required policy).

On a motion by Mr. Boutin, seconded by Mr. Valsangiacomo, the Committee unanimously voted to send Policy F4 to the Board for a First Reading, including only the Statement of Policy Section, and striking out the Definitions and Administrative Sections.

6. Old Business

Brief discussion was held regarding drug recognition as it pertains to the Driver's Education Program. For safety purposes, the District wants to assure that students are 'sober' and in a good frame of mind when they get behind the wheel for the driving portion of Driver's Education. The District may need to expand procedures of 'screening' to look for other signs/symptoms of impairment prior to letting a student get behind the wheel. It was noted that there is a Driver Education Policy in the Parking Lot. Mr. Aither noted that SHS is actively working on procedures and updating the syllabus to include restrictions and consequences that result from a drug violation (during the Driver's Education quarter or during marking quarters leading up to Driver's Education).

7. Other Business

Mr. Howard asked that the Committee look into an issue around sales of 'spirit wear', noting that the BTMES PTO has been barred from selling apparel, because, apparently a teacher sells it instead. Mr. Howard understands that a teacher has a printing business and they are selling apparel. The BCEMS PTO is allowed to sell apparel. Mr. Howard would like to know if this contradiction is in line with any sort of equity policy.

8. Future Agenda Items

Parking Lot:

- Child Nutrition Act Wellness Policy (C9) Required (Added by Committee 06/2023)– Add to October or November Agenda)
- Proficiency Based Learning Policy (D1) – Required (Added by Committee 06/2023) – Discussion date TBD).

9. Next Meeting Date

On a motion by Mr. Boutin, seconded by Ms. Reynolds, the Committee unanimously voted to cancel the July 19, 2023 meeting.

The next meeting is Wednesday, August 16, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the **BUUSD Central Office** and via video conference.

10. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Boutin, seconded by Mr. Valsangiacomo the Committee unanimously agreed to adjourn at 6:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Poulin