



MINUTES
Policy Committee Meeting
District Office Board Room, March 23, 2022

Those in attendance included Nikki Gardner-Committee Chairwoman, Jan Hammond – Board Chair, Ken Loveless – Board Vice Chair, Cathy Huddle – Trustee, Dr. Akil Ross – Superintendent, Carol Lunsford – Coordinator of Instructional Technology. The meeting was open to the public and was live-streamed.

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Committee Chairwoman Gardner. The minutes were approved unanimously with a motion by Loveless and a 2nd by Huddle (vote 4-0). The agenda was approved by a motion by Loveless and a 2nd by Huddle by unanimous vote.

Discussion of Policy KEC “Public Concerns and Complaints About Instructional Resources” began with Hammond addressing the reason for this policy on the agenda. She has discussed this with the SC Department of Education and made them aware we were working on changing our policy to address parent concerns. She inquired as to if we could include SC Law on Obscenity (16-15-305). Mr. Loveless questioned the difference between the definition of “obscenity” in state law and in US law (State Board of Education vs. Pico). Ms. Lunsford stated that neither our policy nor the state’s recommended changes to policy include the definition of “obscenity.” Hammond mentioned that we should include wording in our policy to address prevention. Dr. Ross also pointed out that the SCDOE’s model policy does not include wording about a filter. Currently our policy refers to the State’s Selection Guide. Dr. Ross mentioned that they have contacted SCDOE about these 2 issues and are waiting a reply. We should wait to hear back from them before we make any changes.

The KEC-R includes wording that prevents the district from removing a book while it is being reviewed by committee until after it is removed. Dr. Ross says he is working on a process to tag a book as a “challenged” book in the system so that a student can only check it out with parent permission. Currently a parent can call or send a note to the school requesting that any specific book be tagged to prevent their child from checking it out. To date, no one has submitted a request to have a book removed per our current process. The current process will still be good and will be reflected in the policy, but there will be wording to add our new tagging of “challenged” books until the committee makes a decision. Also, the “Citizen’s Request for Review of Education Materials” will be edited and streamlined. This policy will be brought back to the next policy committee meeting along with policy IJL “Library/Media Center Materials Selection and Adoption.” This policy should include the section from the SCDOE model policy that is labeled “Materials Selection Criteria.” The SCDOE model policy has 3 sections that will be looked at in division to be placed in our current policies and administrative rules instead of adopting an entire replacement policy.

Policy BEDH “Public Participation” was reviewed. It was recommended that speakers list their address and their topic and not be allowed to stray from it. We discussed the concept of “clarifying” statements in the current policy so that multiple speakers cannot repeat the same language as a previous speaker. We should also have speakers refrain from yelling or using profanity. This policy will be brought with suggested changes to the next policy committee meeting. Public Participation should be limited to 60 minutes of the meeting since this is a Trustee Board Meeting held in public, not a Public Meeting.

Policy BDG & BDG-R “School Attorney/Legal Services” and the administrative rule were brought before the committee for final approval with suggested changes to be brought to the full board meeting on April 25th.

Meeting adjourned at 5:23 pm. The next schedule Policy Committee Meeting will be TBD in May or June.