



Winona Area Public Schools  
Board Operations Committee Meeting  
Meeting Minutes: February 20, 2024

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| <b>Meeting Location:</b> | District Office Conference Rooms<br>903 Gilmore Ave, Winona, MN 55987 |
| <b>Meeting Start:</b>    | 4:20 pm   |
| <b>Meeting End:</b>      | 4:50 pm   |
| <b>Members Present:</b>  | Brad Berzinski<br>Kacie Lovas<br>Stephanie Smith                      |
| <b>Other Attendees:</b>  | Michael McArdle, Ann Riebel   |
| <b>Members Absent:</b>   | Michael Hanratty  |

**I. Review Upcoming Policies**

- A. 407 Employee Right to Know-Exposure to Hazardous Substances:** Mr. Berzinski presented this policy with statute and inclusive language updates. Ms. Smith recommended that the policy be added to the March 21, 2024 School Board agenda for first reading by the School Board.
- B. 512 School-Sponsored Student Publications and Activities:** Mr. Berzinski presented this policy with no proposed changes. Ms. Smith recommended that the policy be added to the March 21, 2024 School Board agenda for review by the School Board.
- C. 805 Waste Reduction and Recycling:** Mr. McArdle presented this policy with statute language updates. Ms. Smith recommended that the policy be added to the March 21, 2024 School Board agenda for first reading by the School Board.
- D. 807 Health and Safety Policy:** Mr. McArdle presented this policy with statute and other minor language updates. Ms. Smith recommended that the policy be added to the March 21, 2024 School Board agenda for first reading by the School Board.
- E. 850 Energy Policy:** Mr. McArdle presented this policy with no proposed changes. Ms. Smith recommended that the policy be added to the March 21, 2024 School Board agenda for review by the School Board.
- F. 535 Service Animals in Schools:** Ms. Riebel presented this policy with district language recommendations. The committee was provided with an overview of the differences between a “service animal” and a “therapy dog”. Ms. Smith requested further discussion on section IX. *Allergies; Fear of Animals*, and section VI. *Requesting the Use of a Service Animal in School*. Ms. Smith recommended tabling this policy, and bringing it back to the next Board Operations Committee meeting on March 21 for further discussion.

**II. Follow-up from the February 15, 2024 School Board Meeting:**

- A. 416 Drug, Alcohol, and Cannabis Testing Policy:** Mr. Berzinski brought this policy back to the committee to discuss the first sentence in section II.C. The committee suggested the following:

*“The use, possession, sale, purchase, transfer, or dispensing of any drugs, including medical cannabis, is prohibited on school property (which includes school district vehicles), while operating school district vehicles and equipment, and at any school-sponsored program or event”.*

Ms. Smith recommended that the policy be added to the March 21, 2024 School Board agenda for action by the School Board, with the proposed changes.

- B. 798 Attendance Area Boundaries:** Mr. Berzinski brought this policy back to the committee to discuss comments from the Board. Ms. Smith recommended tabling this policy, and bringing it back to the next Board Operations Committee meeting on March 21 for further discussion.