

LYME-OLD LYME SCHOOLS

Regional School District #18

A Private School Experience



in a Public School Setting

Policy and Communications Committee Meeting

March 12, 2024

Committee Members Present: Anna James, Policy Committee Chair; Laura Dean-Frazier, Communications Committee Chair; Jason Kemp; Gavin Lodge; Alexander Lowry; Martha Shoemaker

Administration Present: Ian Neviaser, Superintendent of Schools

Others Present: Bridget Compagno, Director of Communications and Marketing (remote)

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

Communications Update

Mrs. Compagno reported on the winter edition of the *Focus on Education* newsletter that was recently published. The next edition will be published in mid-April and will address the 2024-2025 proposed budget. This April date is approximately three weeks before the budget referendum. Mrs. Compagno reviewed the other ways she publicizes the referendum (postcards, BOE newsletter, etc.).

Mrs. Compagno updated the group on the district video that she is working on with Alex Roth. She hopes to have the video completed by the end of the school year. Mrs. Compagno reported that teacher profiles are being published regularly, and she averages about two posts per week on social media. There are many end-of-school year activities that she will highlight.

Policy Update

Policy 5141.5 Suicide Prevention and Intervention

Mr. Neviaser reviewed a CABE revised version of this policy which provided language to make the 988 crisis line widely available in schools and includes specific risk factors related to youth suicide which comply with Public Act No. 23-167. It was Mr. Neviaser's opinion that the new policy was more purposeful than the current policy, and he recommended that the committee adopt the recommended CABE policy.

The committee reviewed the policy and several changes were recommended to eliminate some of the wording on the risk factors for youth suicide so as not to be so inclusive.

Policy 5112 Ages of Attendance/Admissions/Placement

Mr. Neviasser reviewed a CABE revised version of this policy as amended by Public Act 23-208 which requires that in order to enroll in kindergarten, children must turn five years old on or before September 1 of the school year. In addition, parents of children who are not five years old on or before September 1 *may* be admitted upon written request to the school principal. Once the waiver request is received, the principal and an appropriate certified staff member would need to conduct an assessment of the child to ensure that admitting the child to kindergarten is developmentally appropriate. Mr. Neviasser explained the student assessment already in place in the preschool.

The committee also reviewed a CABE summary explaining what is required of parents and students regarding referenced ages (5–18) and attendance regulations.

The committee reviewed and wordsmithed the CABE policy with slight modifications made for better clarity. It was agreed that this policy should replace the current policy because it was more comprehensive and addressed the new legislation.

The recommended changes to both policies will be brought before the Board of Education at their April Board of Education meeting.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 6:06 p.m.