EAST GREENWICH
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Minutes of the EGSC Policy Committee
October 24, 2023

The Policy Committee met in the EGPS conference room at 111 Peirce Street from 8:30 am to 10:00 am.

Present: Maggie Baker, Robert Brooks, Beth Cauley, Brian Ricca, Brianna Moody, Tim Munoz, Michael Podraza, Alyson Powell, Mary Ward

The Committee reviewed a first draft of a revised policy, # 2155, Free and Reduced Price Meals/Free Milk. This policy is revised to clarify eligibility requirements under federal and state law, the appeals process for families whose students do not qualify for some/all benefits, privacy protections for students, and EGPS record keeping. The Committee agreed to proceed to a second draft after gathering inputs from the building principals and EGPS employees who have served as hearing officers.

The Committee reviewed a second draft of a revised policy # 2180, Student Residency. The latest revisions included a more concise list of proof of residency requirements, clarification on the role of the Attendance Officer in conducting home visits, a provision for the School Committee to vote each year on whether or not to accept non-CTE applications from out-of-district residents (including number of slots available and tuition rates) and updated citations from the Federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The Committee agreed to forward the second draft to the full School Committee as a First Read in January 2024.

The Committee reviewed a first draft of a revised policy 8325, Prevention and Crisis Intervention/Physical Restraint. The policy is revised to include specific steps on training for educators and staff, the importance of de-escalation techniques, protections for students with IEPs and any behavioral issues and overall alignment of all policy provisions with the safety and welfare of all students. The Committee agreed to seek more input from the Leadership Team before tightening the policy in a second draft, at the same time noting the criticality of updating a policy which has not been revised since 2009.

The Committee reviewed a first draft of a revised policy 9230, Guide for Use/Abandonment of Buildings. The policy is revised to include the process for decommissioning a school building and transferring ownership to the Town, managing removable items that are not part of the building, and providing public and regulatory notifications. The Committee will consult further with the Director of Maintenance to ensure that the next draft of the policy is clear about the timelines for decommissioning a building.

The Committee tabled the discussion of a potential revised policy 7120, Curriculum, due to time constraints.

Minutes submitted by Policy Chair Tim Munoz