

The Subcommittee on School Committee Policies met on Friday, June 30, 2023, in the Virtual Zoom Meeting. Present were Kathy Bent, Peter Goode, Sara Ahern, Kristen Harmon, Jane Moynihan, and Jim Hardy.

Ms. Bent called the meeting to order at 1:04PM.

### **Approval of Minutes**

- Ms. Bent requested a correction to the minutes to correct a grammatical error.
- Motion by Mr. Goode, seconded by Dr. Ahern, and the Committee voted, unanimously, to approve the meeting Minutes of June 9, 2023.

### **Continue Review of Policies in Section J (Students) of the School Committee Policy Manual**

- ❖ JJF – Chris Dwellley, Deputy Director of Finance, attended and provided suggestions related to the annual audit and recommended a rotating basis. Ms. Moynihan stated her concern about student clubs holding money and not depositing in line with the policy. Dr. Ahern will share the updated policy and ensure procedures are adhered to regarding this.  
ADDED language to paragraph 1: The funds shall be only for the benefit of students and managed in accordance with sound business practices, which include accepted budgetary, accounting, and internal control practices. The Superintendent shall ensure that, annually, all Principals and student organizations receive a copy of this policy as well as a copy of established procedures for control of receipts and expenditures that meet or exceed DESE guidelines. Item #2 under compliance: changed regulations to procedures; ADDED: procedures will be established by the Superintendent.  
Item #3 – ADDED after first sentence: Payments for expenditures shall be made, whenever possible, by check, debit, or EFT directly from the Student Activity Checking Account. Out-of-pocket expenditures should be preapproved by the principal and receipts submitted for reimbursement according to established procedures. Signatory authorization for Student Activity Checking Accounts shall be restricted to the Principal or Superintendent and a second designated signatory identified in the procedures. Changed Middle Schools to Intermediate School.  
ADDED: statement regarding ensuring procedures are in place for auditing Student Activities accounts.  
ADDED: New MASC language on Graduating Class Funds, Inactive Student Accounts, and Student Activity Deficits.  
ADDED: Cross References to JJA and DIE
- ❖ JJIB – Discussion was held regarding transgender students as related to the policy. Additional guidance from DESE and MIAA is expected.
- ❖ JJIF: – Dr. Ahern met with Dr. Rudman and provided the updated protocol for the policy. Added “Barnstable” School committee in first sentence of paragraph 2.  
ADDED 3 paragraphs:  
This policy also applies to volunteers who assist with extracurricular athletic activities. Such volunteers shall not be liable for civil damages arising out of any act or omission relating to the requirements of law unless such volunteer is willfully or intentionally negligent in his act or omission.

Most student athletes who sustain a concussion can fully recover as long as their brain has time to heal before sustaining another hit; however, relying only on an athlete’s self-report of symptoms to determine injury recovery is inadequate as many high school athletes are not aware of the signs and symptoms or the severity concussive injuries pose, or they may feel pressure from coaches, parents/guardians, and/or teammates to return to play as quickly as possible. One or more of these factors will likely result in under-diagnosing the injury and a premature return to play. Massachusetts General Laws and Department of Public Health regulations make it imperative to accurately assess and treat student athletes when concussions are suspected.

Student athletes who receive concussions may appear to be “fine” on the outside, when in actuality they have a brain injury and are not able to return to play. Incurring a second concussion can prove to be devastating to a student athlete. Research has shown that young, concussed athletes who return to play before their brain has healed are highly vulnerable to more prolonged post-concussion syndrome or, in rare cases, a catastrophic neurological injury known as Second Impact Syndrome.

REVISED last paragraph removing language: “ ...by the Athletic Director with all required staff (athletic department, coaches, athletic trainer, guidance counselors and nursing staff).”

- ❖ JJIF-R (Athletic Concussion Regulations) – Policy revised by replacing with updated protocol (reviewed August 2021).

- ❖ JKF – DELETED – information moved to student handbooks
- ❖ JL – updated for parents/guardians; added cross references: *EB, Safety Program and EBB, First Aid*
- ❖ JLA – DELETE = Mr. Hardy predates the mandate that all families must have health insurance
- ❖ JLC – Revised “Barnstable” School Committee and parent/guardian; revised for updated language in line with MASC policy.
- ❖ JLCA – revised language in paragraph 2: “Every student will provide evidence of or will be given a general physical examination four times:...””; added legal reference: 105 CMR 200.
- ❖ JLCB - replaced with MASC language (broader language) – title changed from Inoculation of Students to Immunization of Students
- ❖ JLCC – revised language from “handicapped child” to “child with a disability”; paragraph 2: removed reference to specific disease
- ❖ JLCDD – Postpone to July meeting
- ❖ JLCCE – DELETE – conflicts with the McKinney-Vento Act; no MASC policy; Attorney Michael Joyce recommends removal
- ❖ JLCD – Start July 21 meeting

### **Next Steps**

- The Committee will continue reviewing the polices in section J.
- The Committee will review the policies in section K.
- Next meetings: July 21 and August 18.

Motion by Mr. Goode, seconded by Ms. Moynihan, and the Committee voted, unanimously, to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 2:44PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Bent, Chair