

The Subcommittee on School Committee Policies met on Friday, May 19, 2023, in the Virtual Zoom Meeting. Present were Kathy Bent, Peter Goode, Sara Ahern, Kristen Harmon, Jane Moynihan, Jim Hardy, and Jen Kruczek.

Ms. Bent called the meeting to order at 1:01PM.

### **Approval of Minutes**

- Motion by Ms. Moynihan, seconded by Dr. Ahern, and the Committee voted, unanimously, to approve the meeting Minutes of April 14, 2023.

### **Review Policy IJNDD (Social Media)**

- Ms. Bent stated she would like to clear up the difference between social media and coaches' communication.
- Dr. Ahern stated current students should be changed to current BPS students. In 1B, she suggested adding "or through district-approved applications." Staff had concerns about coaches and some staff have students as babysitters. In 1D, she suggested adding after "not using District applications" after any communication. The Committee agreed.
- Ms. Bent stated if a teacher has a student as a babysitter, there can be a disclosure form sent to the principal signed by the parent.
- Ms. Harmon suggested in 1E, adding "to current Barnstable public school students."
- Ms. Bent asked Dr. Ahern if she could share the updated policy with teachers and staff before the June 7 School Committee meeting for feedback. Dr. Ahern said she would send it out.

### **Review Policy JICFB (Bullying Prevention)**

- Ms. Bent stated she did not receive any feedback.

### **Review Policy JFABF (Educational Opportunities for Children in Foster Care)**

- Ms. Bent stated she did not receive any feedback.

### **Review Policy IHAM AND IHAM-R (Health Education)**

- Ms. Bent stated Committee members have received a number of emails and there was public comment from parents regarding books donated to elementary schools by a BIPOC group. The titles had been reviewed by the administrator and it was questioned if the Committee vetted the organization and read the books.
- Ms. Moynihan stated there is a policy on how to object to materials in the library.
- Ms. Bent stated the Committee needs to make sure there is no infraction on someone's freedom of speech and there is division of church and state.
- Ms. Moynihan stated students were allowed to take a book or not take a book. The focus was on groups that are underserved. It was not mandatory to take a book.
- Dr. Ahern stated this book donation was at the 4/5 school. There is another book drive happening at K-3 schools. Those titles are being vetted. She thinks it is a lot to ask administration to do a deep dive into organizations views on social issues.
- The Committee discussed the book drive process.
- Dr. Ahern stated Policy IJL discusses the library collection in which literature is reviewed. Policy AC speaks about nondiscrimination and we expect organizations to follow those expectations.
- Mr. Hardy stated there are other districts with parents trying to get books banned and they are developing opt outs.
- The Committee discussed the opt out procedure.
- The Committee discussed organizations donating books to the public libraries that are currently going directly to the students.
- Mr. Hardy stated Policy KCD speaks to public gifts to the schools. The Committee has control of what is accepted and what is not.
- Dr. Ahern stated these books had authors and characters with diverse backgrounds.
- Ms. Bent stated she sees no issues with this policy

### **Review Policy IHAMA (Parental Notification Relative to Sex Education)**

- Ms. Bent asked if students are taught human sexual education or human sexual issues. For example, is gender identity included in the sex education curriculum? Dr. Ahern stated the curriculum is fact based and does not explore gender identity.

- Ms. Bent stated under 2, instruction should be changed to instructional.

#### **Review Policy IJL (Library Collection)**

- Ms. Bent pointed out a typo.

#### **Review Policy IMB (Teaching About Controversial Issues/Controversial Speakers)**

- There were no changes.

#### **Review Policy JICE (Student Publications)**

- There were no changes.

#### **Review Policy JJA (Student Organizations)**

- Dr. Ahern spoke about the National Day of Silence that has been happening country-wide since the 1990's. There are 40-50 clubs/organizations at the high school. They all have advisors to help support their efforts. The GSA sponsored the National Day of Silence event at the high school this year.
- Ms. Bent asked if school events are sent home to families. Dr. Ahern stated it is done at the school level by principals either with newsletters or emails. At the district level, she sends a monthly newsletter out. She does not list everything happening in the district. The district also has social media accounts where various activities are promoted, but not all of them. She does have various days of celebrations posted on Facebook.

#### **Review Policy KA (School/Community Relations Goals)**

- Ms. Bent stated there has to be a balance of welcoming all and not being discriminatory.

#### **Review Policy KBA (School/Parent Relations Goals)**

- There were no changes.

#### **Review Policy KCD (Public Gifts to the Schools)**

- Ms. Bent stated this policy was spoken about earlier.

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

- ❖ JIH – There were no changes.
- ❖ JII – There were no changes.
- ❖ JI – There were no changes.
- ❖ JJA – The Committee added a cross reference and Barnstable in the first paragraph.
- ❖ JJC – The Committee added Barnstable in the first paragraph.
- ❖ JJD – The Committee added Barnstable in the first paragraph and removed “full day kindergarten or school parking at the high school.”
- ❖ JJE – The Committee will start with this policy next time.

#### **Next Steps**

- The Committee will continue reviewing the policies in section J.
- The Committee set the summer meeting schedule: 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 2:31PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jen Kruczek  
Executive Assistant