

The Subcommittee on School Committee Policies met on Friday, April 14, 2023, in the Virtual Zoom Meeting. Present were Kathy Bent, Peter Goode, Sara Ahern, Kristen Harmon, Jane Moynihan, Jim Hardy, Mary Beth Shea, and Jen Kruczek.

Ms. Bent called the meeting to order at 1:08PM.

Approval of Minutes

- Motion by Ms. Moynihan, seconded by Dr. Ahern, and the Committee voted, unanimously, to approve the meeting Minutes of March 10, 2023.

Review Policy JICFB (Bullying Prevention)

- Ms. Bent stated there are some formatting changes. MASC uses target instead of victim and the change was made in the Barnstable policy.
- Ms. Moynihan stated under investigating procedures, there is a 14 school day time limit. She does not think that is enough time. Dr. Ahern stated it is good to have a time guideline. Ms. Bent added “unless there are extenuating circumstances” after the 14 school days.
- Ms. Moynihan asked what if a child is unenrolled during the investigation. Dr. Ahern stated the investigation should continue even if the aggressor(s) or the victim(s) leave the district.
- Ms. Bent changed himself to themselves, removed the types of electronic mediums, and used general language. Under Bullying Procedures, Ms. Bent stated the Committee has been removing procedural language from policies. The Committee agreed to remove it.
- Kathy stated the Bullying and Special Education section is part of SPED law and she does not think it is needed in the policy. Dr. Ahern stated certain students are more vulnerable. Mr. Hardy stated it does not have to be in the policy.
- Ms. Bent updated the Oral Reporting section to the MASC language.
- Ms. Shea asked about the notification process to parents taking into account gender identity and sexuality, their parents not knowing this information, and what process should be followed. Mr. Hardy stated that language should go in the plan and not in the policy.

Review Policy JFAA (School Admissions – Residency Requirements)

- Dr. Ahern stated the policy currently requires 3 forms of proof of residency and there is a request to change it to 2 forms. The FCEC Coordinator did research and other districts have 1 or 2 forms required. It is taking a while to get 3 items. The Committee agreed to change it to 2.

Review Policy IJNDD (Social Media)

- Dr. Ahern stated she asked for this to be on the agenda. There have been situations in the past month with staff interactions with students on social media. Barnstable does not have a current policy to point back to. She asked Noreen Jones to look at it and provide feedback.
- Ms. Kruczek stated when this Committee reviewed Section I, they added a Social Media Policy and approved it in form. This policy has been included in the meeting materials.
- Ms. Bent changed teachers to teachers/staff.
- Ms. Moynihan spoke about teachers and coaches giving out their phones numbers for various legitimate reasons.
- Mr. Hardy stated this policy is not prohibiting group texts. It is against one on one texting with students.
- Dr. Ahern suggested this policy be cross referenced with the internet publications policy.

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

- Dr. Ahern added Barnstable before School Committee in the first paragraph and removed “if offered” in the first paragraph around preschool.

Continue Review of Policies in Section J (Negotiations) of the School Committee Policy Manual

- ❖ Ms. Bent stated it is taking a while to get through these policies. She feels approving in form is not the best way to go. She does not know if she will be on the School Committee in November. She would like to approve the sections the Committee has approved in form by June 30. She will look at the MASC policy revision with Ms. Kruczek this summer.
- ❖ JICHA – Ms. Bent asked if the procedures should be kept in the policy or moved to the handbook. Dr. Ahern thinks it belongs in the handbook. The procedures were removed.

- ❖ JICK – Dr. Ahern stated this is coded as JBA in our manual currently. Mr. Hardy stated it was moved to be closer to the bullying policy. The Committee agreed to use the MASC policy and remove the JBA policy. Only change is to add Barnstable Public Schools in the first paragraph.
- ❖ JIE – Ms. Bent removed the gender language and added language about taking on parental responsibilities in the first paragraph.

Next Steps

- The Committee will continue reviewing the policies in section J.

Motion by Dr. Ahern, seconded by Ms. Harmon, and the Committee voted, unanimously, to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 2:32PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jen Kruczek
Executive Assistant