

The Subcommittee on School Committee Policies met on Friday, September 9, 2022, in the Virtual Zoom Meeting. Present were Chair Kathy Bent, Peter Goode, Sara Ahern, Kristen Harmon, Jane Moynihan, Jim Hardy, and Jen Kruczek.

Ms. Bent called the meeting to order at 1:00PM.

Approval of Minutes

- Motion by Ms. Moynihan, seconded by Dr. Ahern, and the Committee unanimously approved the Minutes of June 10, 2022.

Update Policy JH (Student Attendance)

- Dr. Ahern stated this is one of two policies that came back from Attorney Michael Joyce from the review of handbooks. The addition of “for more than 8 days” is from the law. There is also added language about absence notifications and deleted text related to the 2020-2021 school year. For adult students, there is an added sentence about dismissals or excusals. The Committee agreed to the changes. Ms. Bent asked about absences due to illness and receiving homebound tutoring and if they still count as absences. Dr. Ahern stated they are excused absence and one can have a waiver to allow for graduation.

Delete Policy JBA (Student-to-Student Harassment)

- Dr. Ahern stated the attorney noted this has language that is inconsistent with Title IX and suggested it be deleted. Mr. Hardy stated the revised Policy AC and AC-R language covers this. The Committee agreed to delete this policy.

Discuss potential Policy of Facility Use Procedures and Guidelines related to Sale of Alcohol on School Property

- Dr. Ahern stated there is a request from the Rotary to have alcohol on school grounds for an event in March. The Symphony has also requested serving alcohol at the high school. Ms. Moynihan stated there are insurance issues with alcohol. Dr. Ahern stated a couple of years ago, the Town adjusted their policy to allow for alcohol in certain areas. The symphony request was back in 2019-2020 for a New Year’s show.
- Ms. Bent asked Dennis Miller from the Garden Show if underage people could attend and would a daily license be needed. As a school district, she worries about the perception to the student body and families of having alcohol on the school property.
- Ms. Moynihan asked how many people does the Garden Show draw, what is its location, admission cost, and is it mostly adults attending. Mr. Miller stated pre-Covid 3000 people attend and last year 2000 attended. It is inside and outside, but mostly inside in the gym and field house. Admission is charged. Mostly adults attend, but families do come. They have readings to children and give them a free book. There are entertainment groups. They are looking to have a wine and beer tasting. No sales. The vendor would be checking the IDs. The intent is to get a few vendors and have them in an isolated area.
- Mr. Hardy stated state statute governs alcohol on school premise where no one can possess alcohol on school grounds during school hours. The School Committee may authorize its use during non-school hours. They would still need to check with the licensing board in Hyannis.
- Ms. Moynihan will speak to Dave Anthony and the licensing authority to see about the process.
- Mr. Goode agrees if it is just a tasting; it is different than with sales.
- Ms. Bent asked Ms. Kruczek to note when the Committee gets to section K, to think about a policy around alcohol or one of the facilities policies. Dr. Ahern stated those are policies KF and KF-R.

Discuss potential Policy for Therapy/Emotional Support Animals

- Dr. Ahern stated this is a new policy for consideration. The district has been receiving a number of requests for therapy/emotional support dogs. She has seen firsthand the benefit to schools. Centerville has one. There is one approve at the high school and a request for one at West Villages. There needs to be a policy to put in parameters and restrictions. The district cannot have individual requests for students to have an emotional support dog or other animal.
- Ms. Moynihan stated the one at Centerville is from a private group who trained and brought the dog in. The high school dog is from an employee who went through the training with her dog. She spoke to the SROs, they have a dog being trained, and they would like to bring it into BIS.
- Ms. Bent asked Dr. Ahern how she felt about the Franklin policy on this subject. Dr. Ahern stated it worked well. The Student Service attorney put the policy together in Franklin. Ms. Bent stated she would use the Franklin policy and make adjustments as needed. She would like this policy on the October 5 School Committee meeting agenda for a vote in November.

Continue Review of Policies in Section I (Instruction) of the School Committee Policy Manual

- The Committee discussed the policies in Section I:
 - ❖ IKF – Dr. Ahern discussed the credits in the handbook. Those credits were updated in the policy.
 - ❖ IL – Mr. Hardy stated the MASC has MCAS in #1 and the Committee agreed to change parent to parent/guardian.
 - ❖ ILD – The Committee agreed to change parent to parent/guardian. Dr. Ahern stated parents around the Commonwealth are having conversations about this subject and how they can opt out of surveys.
 - ❖ IMA – There are no changes.
 - ❖ IMB – The Committee changed parent to parent/guardian.
 - ❖ IMD – There are no changes.
 - ❖ IMG – There are no changes.

Next Steps

- Review the outstanding I Policies, H policies, and start the J policies.

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

Meeting Adjourned at 2:30PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jen Kruczek
Executive Assistant