

The Subcommittee on School Committee Policies met on Friday, April 8, 2022, in the Virtual Zoom Meeting. Present were Chair Kathy Bent, Peter Goode, Meg Mayo-Brown, Kristen Harmon, Jane Moynihan, Jim Hardy, Sharon Morgan, Moira Bundschuh, and Jen Kruczek.

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

Library Collection Development Policy

- Ms. Bent stated Mr. Hardy had not drafted the merged policy draft.
- Sharon stated there is no mention of recreational reading in the policies. Book challenges are exploding nationwide.
- Ms. Bent stated there is a Subcommittee meeting on April 29 and Mr. Hardy will get a draft before then. The policy could be on the May School Committee meeting agenda. She will ask the Chair to only do one reading and approve at the May meeting.

Approval of Minutes

- Motion by Ms. Moynihan, seconded by Mr. Goode, and the Committee unanimously approved the Minutes of March 11, 2022.

Review Policy JFAA (School Admissions – Residency Requirement)

- Ms. Bent asked Ms. Bundschuh to explain her concerns on this policy.
- Ms. Bundschuh stated DESE wants policies that make the registration process easier for refugee students. Their March 8 guidance speaks to this and wants to get students into school as soon as possible and then get additional proof as needed. Districts can use a birth certificate affidavit instead of the actual birth certificate.
- Dr. Mayo-Brown stated the policy needs to add the language from the advisory.
- Mr. Hardy stated this falls under the homeless policy JFABD. Dr. Mayo-Brown stated these students are moving into the district, but they do not have documentation. They are not homeless.
- Ms. Bundschuh stated in policy JF, it states three items are needed as proof of residency and that is difficult for newcomer and refugees. Immunization records are a challenge for families depending on how they left their country. Sometimes ICE takes passport at the border. Transcripts are also required. She is looking for something specific for refugees or newcomers.
- Dr. Mayo-Brown stated the Commissioner would like flexibility to get kids enrolled in school.
- Ms. Moynihan stated refugees or those seeking asylum in the US would be provide a waiver of documentation.
- Ms. Bundschuh stated newcomers are different. They are coming from Brazil and not under refugee status. DESE guidance says districts should look at requiring less; instead of requiring three items for proof of residency, they could provide one.
- Ms. Bent stated under Extraordinary Circumstances, add language on refugees and newcomers. Section C, number 2, language was added.
- Ms. Bundschuh asked if a bank statement could be added to the list of accepted proof of residency.
- The Committee agreed to the changes.

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

- The Committee discussed the policies in Section I:
 - ❖ IB – There were no changes.
 - ❖ IC/ICA – Ms. Bent asked about receiving school services in section 1 and 2. No one knew what it meant. The Committee agreed to remove the language from the policy.
 - ❖ ID – The Committee changed insure to ensure, added “unless circumstances require early admittance” in paragraph 3, and used paragraph 1 from the MASC policy.
 - ❖ IE – The Committee changed middle level to intermediate level and added PreK in paragraph 2. Ms. Bent had an issue with “to serve the needs of all students” in last paragraph. She stated when a student turns 8, if SPED determines MCAS-Alt for the student, there is no attempt to meet the curriculum frameworks required by DESE. Dr. Mayo-Brown stated Policy IHB might be a more appropriate place to address this concern.
 - ❖ IGA/IGD – There were no changes.
 - ❖ IGA – The MASC policy was removed.
 - ❖ IGB – There were no changes.
 - ❖ IGD - The MASC policy was removed.
 - ❖ IHAI – The Committee added + after grade 12.
 - ❖ IHAM – There were no changes.

- ❖ IHAM-R – There were no changes.
- ❖ IHAMA – There were no changes.
- ❖ IHAMB – There were no changes.
- ❖ IHB – Dr. Mayo-Brown told Ms. Bent that her question from Policy IE might be addressed here about MCAS-Alt. Ms. Bent spoke about the MCAS-Alt and instruction. She wants to see language about it affecting graduation. The Committee added language about parents/guardians receiving written notification when MCAS-Alt is identified that includes the implications for curriculum modification impacting the earning a high school diploma.
- ❖ IHBA – There were no changes.
- ❖ IHBAA – Ms. Bent stated observations in the classroom are not allowed.
- ❖ IHBB – Ms. Harmon stated she would like to revisit this policy, as she wants to give Kari Morse a chance to look at this. Dr. Mayo-Brown suggested adding a DEI lens on this policy.
- ❖ IHBD – There were no changes.
- ❖ IHBEA – Ms. Harmon would like Carina Da Silva to look at this policy. Mr. Hardy suggested the title change to English Learner Education and to take out the legal reference on every student succeeds act and replace with the elementary and secondary education act as amended.
- ❖ IHBF – The Committee changed the title to Executive Director of SEL and Student Services.
- ❖ IHBG – The Committee will start at this policy at the next meeting.

Next Steps

- The Committee will continue the review of policies in Section I at the next meeting.
- The Committee added a meeting on June 10 at 1:00pm.

Motion by Dr. Mayo-Brown, seconded by Mr. Goode, and the Committee voted, unanimously, to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:35PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jen Kruczek
Executive Assistant