LYME-OLD LYME SCHOOLS

Regional School District #18

A Private School Experience ***in a Public School Setting***

Policy and Communications Committee Meeting
October 8, 2024

Committee Members Present: Anna James, Policy Committee Chair; Jason Kemp; Gavin Lodge

Administration Present: Ian Neviaser, Superintendent of Schools

Others Present: Bridget Compagno, Director of Communications and Marketing

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

Communications Update
Mrs. Compagno reported on a press release providing updates on the PK-8 Building Project which will also be featured in the next edition of the *Focus on Education* newsletter. *LymeLine* did a story on the project recently after receiving the press release.

Mrs. Compagno updated the group on her analysis of future printing and distribution of the *Focus on Education* newsletter. After researching the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities and receiving bids from several companies, the decision was to move forward with a local printer which will save the district approximately $500 per issue with the added benefit of having more control over the timing of the print and distribution of the newsletter.

Based upon feedback from the committee at last month's meeting, Mrs. Compagno reported that the next staff profile will feature an employee (non-teacher) of the district.

Mrs. Compagno reported on the next open house at LOLHS for prospective students, and she explained what occurs at this type of event. She also reported on the follow-up that occurs after a prospective family completes an online inquiry about the district.

Mrs. Compagno reported on her recent attendance at a conference which gave various ways to improve communication in the event of an emergency event on campus.

Mrs. Compagno reported on the importance of parents utilizing the messaging system *ParentSquare* correctly such as receiving only one notification if they have children in more than one school, making sure cell phone notifications are turned on so that important messages are not missed, etc. Mrs. Compagno also discussed possibly creating a group notification in ParentSquare for those in community who don't have children in the schools, such as grandparents, but would still like to receive relevant district news such as dates of school plays and the referendum vote, etc.

Policy Update

Policy 6146.2 Statewide Proficiency/Mastery Examinations

Mr. Neviaser reported that this current policy, which was last revised in December 2003, contained outdated information e.g., CMT and CAPT testing. He reviewed two sample policies recently obtained from CABE. The committee reviewed both sample policies, and the decision was to move forward with the second policy and to bring it to the Board of Education at their November meeting.

School Climate Policy

Mr. Neviaser reported that this sample policy was developed by CABE and provides districts guidance on recent revisions to Connecticut's school climate law. For the school year commencing July 1, 2025, each school district must adopt and implement the Connecticut School Climate Policy. Mr. Neviaser reported that the administration reviewed the policy and approved as written, but are working on the forms which will be part of the administrative regulations.

Mr. Neviaser recommended moving forward with this policy but not putting into effect until July 2025. The reasoning behind this is that there is a requirement that districts adopt the restorative practices policy along with the bullying/school climate policy, and Attorneys Shipman and Goodwin are currently developing the restorative practices policy which won't be ready until sometime next year. There was consensus to have a first reading of this policy at the November Board of Ed meeting.

Title IX Policies

Mr. Neviaser reviewed model Title IX/sex discrimination policies for both the student series and personnel series, which must be adopted this school year. Mr. Neviaser noted that he distributed these to the committee for informational purposes only at this point in time as he needed to compare these with the district's current harassment policies. He did note that the new policies require a significant amount of employee training on the subject every year.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 5:53 p.m.