



South Orange Maplewood School District Agenda

Policy Committee Meeting

Tuesday, March 8 · 6:30 – 8:45 pm

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Susan Bergin, Chair

Elissa Malespina

Qawi Telesford

Arun Vadlamani 8pm left

Noah Morris* 6:54

Dr. Ronald Taylor**

Susie Budine

Caralyn Moore

Joanne Butler - left at 7:58

POLICIES ON FOR SECOND READING ADOPTION:

0156.1	Board Representatives - abolish
2415.4	Title I - District-Wide Parental Involvement
7436	Drug Free Workplace Discussion on minor language changes.
8330	Student Records
9130	Public Complaints & Grievances* Discussion on clarification on informal discussion & whether to change the language to chain of command

POLICIES FOR FIRST READING & DISCUSSION:

2480	Alternative Education (Abolish) The recommendation from C&I is that this policy be abolished and replaced if needed in the future to reflect the District's needs at that time.	C&I
0167	Public Participation* Discussion by the committee to review current public participation practices and procedures that were enacted during COVID, such as the addition of written public speaks and reading of written public speaks into the record. (See additional notes below.)	Policy
3134	Assignment Additional Duties* This policy will be considered by the Personnel	Personnel

	Committee; however, it was noted by the SLT member that this policy may have contractual obligations that may require a deeper review.	
3233	Political Activities (Certificated)* This policy was discussed by the Personnel Committee and is being updated to reflect the recommended changes from Strauss Esmay and recent NJ Statutes.	Personnel
4233	Political Activities (Support)* This policy will be discussed by the Personnel Committee and will be updated with changes as reflected in the policy for certificated staff.	Personnel
7540	Joint Use of Facilities* New policy from Straus Esmay to be reviewed by FFT.	FFT
8465	Bias Crimes & Bias-Related Acts* to be sent to FFT.	FFT
7510	Use of School Facilities* Updated as per Strauss Esmay.	FFT
8830	Patriotic Observances* Policy is not in Strauss Esmay and does not reflect current practices or holidays. It will be sent to FFT to review and possibly abolish.	FFT
9560	Administration of School Surveys*	Policy

*Pending discussion by appropriate committee

Policies for Discussion (possible first read):

- 9560 Administration of School Surveys
- 0167 Public Participation at Board Meetings

Discussion:

- It seems that it doesn't make sense to have a written comments option at this point. The Board implemented it at the start of the pandemic to provide more options when meetings suddenly became remote;
- Would support having a written document into the minutes but not have it read it into the minutes.
- Like the ability to write into the board;
- Discussion of when there's a form letter and the same letter is read over and over again;
- Having board members read it into the record is unnecessary and this wasn't the purpose of it;
- The community can email the board as well;
- The point and spirit of the public speaks will be lost;

- We have a generous policy that goes beyond what the open meeting law requires with two public speaks sessions, and the policy does not include a written or virtual speaking option; doesn't mean it's the best thing to do;
- More open communication is needed - we don't hold meetings that allow for open forums with the board;
- The pandemic has allowed us to do this and think that we should be allowed to continue this;
- Maybe a representative on the same topic could be read into the record.
- The pandemic has opened things up and we have new forms of communication and should have a sampling of the letters read;
- The Board should not be in the business of determining with letters to read as a sample;
- Open communication does not mean effective communication; would support one or the other. Either all goes in there.
- Writing to the Board has always been a practice;
- We can do away with the written public speaks;
- From a legal point of view, do not have to allow for a written public speaks. This was allowed due to the pandemic. As a practical matter – don't see a need to continue to read into the record - still going beyond what the law allows. Choosing to read some and not to read some. Cannot say they are the same submission without line for line comparison.
- If they cannot be read, would like them placed on the website. Create an appendix for the minutes.
- Discussion on personal information being shared such as students with IEPs as well as staff who may be non-renewed whose negative information is now permanently online;
- Discussion of who would screen written comments;
- More discussion is needed; This matter will be tabled and discussed with the executive committee.
- 1648.11 Road Forward
 - Discussion:
 - Comments were made regarding the way the policy is written.
 - Suggested to add local health departments and "shall" to align with changes to the mask recommendations and requirements to allow Dr. Taylor to work with the local health departments as well. Shall revise as necessary. Gives power and authority as he needs;
 - Parameters are there;
 - The governor's most impactful order is what counts as a school day. There are already failsafes that supersede the policy in there. The state gives us directions about what we can do in the event of an emergency, and if we would have the flexibility to switch to virtual, but masks are still an option.
 - Orders from the state are flexible as they can be - working with the parameters of the governor's orders.
 - Individual schools can make up the time.

- Whether we need to add language around unanticipated outbreak - guidance by health department for surges in one of the buildings .
 - Superintendent will follow the law.
 - Add for first read.
- 5842 - Student activities
 - Policy is up to date per Strauss Esmay. No changes are needed on this policy and no discussion on the policy.

Items for Discussion:

- Regulations adopted by board (see Policy Alert 223, Policy 0131 Bylaws, Policies and Regulations)
- Need to determine which regulations the Board has to adopt;
- What role does the Board have in the regulations it must adopt?
- What regs are mandated to be adopted by the Board?
- Mission statement
 - Should be ready for April Board meeting
 - Create processes to keep us from falling behind in policies.

New Business

- Schedule of Policy Meetings
 - Second Tuesday of every month through June
- Schedule of other committee meetings
 - 1st Tuesday of the month is C&I
 - FFT to be clarified.

*Noah joined the meeting at 6:54 pm and left early for another commitment.

**Dr. Taylor left the meeting at approximately 7:30 for another commitment.

^Ms. Butler left the meeting at 7:58 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:41 pm.