

**South Orange Maplewood School District
Policy Committee of the Board 2021
March 10, 2021 - 5:30 pm
MEETING NOTES**

Superintendent: Dr. Ronald Taylor

Committee Chair: Susan Bergin

Members: Elissa Malespina, Erin Siders, Courtney Winkfield, Lily Forman

Administrative Liaison: Dr. Melody Alegria, Assistant Superintendent for Special Services

1. Board Policy Reviews and SLT (and Administration) Input

Policies for Second Reading (review any comments received)

0142 Board Member Qualifications, Prohibited Acts and Code of Ethics

- Add: the Board shall take appropriate action “***as directed by the commissioner***”
 - At end, under “Code of Governance” - add “***and approved***” annually
- Add: No Board member or member of their immediate family or business organization in which “***the board member***” has an interest shall solicit or accept any gift, favor, loan, political contribution, service, promise...
- Add: -domestic partnership “***or***” civil union status
 - -gender identity “***or***” expression,
- Replace “insure” with “***ensure***”

0143 Board Member Election and Appointment

- Change his/her to “***their***” candidacy

5430 Class Rank Policy

- Policy was discussed and C&I committee meeting;
- Noted that the regulation will be updated to include students in the top 10%; CHS principal will work on the regulation.
- No changes to the policy.

0145 Board Member Resignation and Removal

- No changes

0148 Board Member Indemnification

- No changes

Discussion of Strauss Esmay language of defraying cost versus the Board will assume cost.
Language will remain as is.

Policies Sent to Committees to Prepare for First Reading

Committee discussed putting forth policies for first reading that should be prioritized due to the integration plan. Remaining policies will be put on hold.

5350- Pupil Suicide Prevention (C&I) - Submitted for first reading.

- Change “himself/herself” to themselves

5756- Transgender and Gender nonconforming Students (C&I) - This policy will be held for further discussion.

- Policy need to be brought forward for the board to review; Has been out there for a year;

5519- Dating Violence at School (C&I) - This policy will be held for further discussion.

- Not sure of the obligations outside of school;
- What the reporting regulations are;

5530- Substance Abuse (C&I) - This policy will be held for further discussion.

- Last year before COVID a lot of suspension after homecoming; Principal Morgan did research about restorative practices;
- Need to do more research; Hold for this month;

5533- Student Smoking (C&I) - This policy will be held for further discussion.

- Want to make sure the language covers vaping;
- Want to make sure consent for medical authorization; Consent is implied;
- Marijuana legalization still prohibits students from using marijuana.

9713- Recruitment by Special Interest Groups (FFT) - Submitted for first reading.

- Add signing non-discrimination pledge;

Representatives of bona fide educational institutions, occupational agencies, and the United States Armed Forces may recruit **students** on school premises by participation in assembly programs, career day activities, and the like and by distributing literature. Permission to recruit on school premises must be requested [**KEEP IN WRITING**] **in writing fourteen (14) at least forty-five working** days before the planned activity and must be approved in advance by the Superintendent **or designee**. ***“Any entity recruiting under this policy must sign a non-discrimination pledge”***. The Superintendent **or designee** shall not favor one recruiter over another, but shall not approve an activity that, in the **judgment of the Superintendent or designee's judgment**, carries a substantial likelihood of disrupting the educational program of **the school or school district**.

7441-Electronic Surveillance on School Buildings and on School Grounds (FFT) - On hold.

- This is a mandatory policy missing from the manual;
- Will hold so new board members can review MOU with law enforcement;

8600- Student Transportation (FFT) - Submitted for first reading.

No changes.

Discussion:

- Cannot give everyone transportation as a courtesy; With intentional integration, there won't be zoned schools in a couple of years;
- Some students receiving transportation this year will not receive it next year;
- Will still have shuttle busses for So. Mountain/Ax and high school; Important distinction determines the mile ratio;
- Will need to be communicated to families;
- Need to give as much lead way to the parents as possible about the change of bussing;
- More transportation to the youngest students based on the algorithm;
- Would be a hardship for students zoned for Clinton.
- New transportation supervisor will anticipate major cross streets when determining routes. Major thoroughfares can be addressed without addressing in policy;

5751- Sexual Harassment (Personnel) - Submitted for first reading

Question about the training being not being specific to our district; GNC training is very broad; want to make sure that the training is occurring;

Update language: This Policy protects "***all persons regardless of gender identity or expression from***" sexual harassment engaged in by school district employees, other students, or third parties. Sexual harassment is prohibited, regardless of the gender of the harasser OR if the harasser and the student being harassed are members of the same gender. Harassing conduct of a sexual nature directed toward any student, regardless of the student's sexual orientation, may create a sexually hostile environment and therefore constitute sexual harassment. Non-sexual touching or other non- sexual conduct does not constitute sexual harassment, "***but may be prohibited by law and/or board policy.***"

Page 2

The Board shall provide training for all staff and age-appropriate classroom information for students to ensure the staff and the students understand what type of conduct "***is***" ~~can cause~~ sexual harassment and that the staff know the school district policy and regulation on how to respond.

-REMOVE Strauss Esmay paragraph about first amendment

Move for first reading but also adjust the regulations; compare with the NJSBA regulations;

Would fall under Dr. Perez as the Title IX coordinator; Dr. Alegria will work with her as well as the principals.

5120- Assignment of Students - This policy will be held for further discussion.

- Discussion on whether we need to say assignment of students based on the algorithm;
 - Reference to intentional integration;

- Should “and/or is the best interest of the students” be removed from the policy?
- Multiples in the classes; there are families who are in the same grade who are adopted or foster care in the same grade level; students in this category will be treated as multiples.

5124- Internal Student Transfers - This policy will be held for further discussion.

- Still unanswered questions about student transfers as it relates to the intentional integration plan.
- How does the board want to address any transfers;
 - is it a hard no; how to address siblings;
- Will a student be brought back to their zone school and go by the algorithm.
- What parameters does the District want to have for parents;
- Will there be exceptions;
 - needs to have more conversations and reviewed.

0164 - Conduct of Board Meetings - Submitted for first reading

Change # of days & order

The Superintendent or designee, the Board Secretary and the Board President shall prepare an agenda of items of business to come before the Board at each meeting. The agenda shall be delivered to each Board member no later than THREE (3) calendar days before the meeting and shall include such reports and supplementary materials as are appropriate. Fiscal and personnel resolutions may be added or updated as needed prior to the meeting; changes shall be clearly marked. The Board President may authorize any extraordinary exceptions to the THREE-day requirement. The Board shall follow the order of business set up by the agenda unless the order is altered by the consent of the majority of the members present and voting.

REVISED ORDER OF BUSINESS -

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Call to Order

Announcement of Notice

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Board Recognition

Approval of Board Minutes

Board President Statement

Superintendent Monthly Update

Presentations

Presidents Update

Student BOE Representative Update

Hearing of Individuals and Delegations

Discussion

Action Items

Hearing of Individuals and Delegations
New Business
Notice of Future Public Board Meetings
Adjournment

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING/RETREATS

Call to Order
Announcement of Notice
Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call
Board President Statement
Hearing of Individuals and Delegations
Workshop Session or Adjournment to Closed Session
Return to Public Session from Closed Session
Action Items
Hearing of Individuals and Delegations
Notice of Future Public Board Meetings
Adjournment

2. Old Business

- Status of Perkins Audit Policies: The recent Perkins Audit noted two additional policies that are needed and will be prepared by FFT committee.
- Status of Migration to Strauss Esmay

Background:

Policy Process - determines what policies are to be presented for approval at monthly BOE meeting

- Finance, Personnel, C&I will submit policies for review to this committee
 - Policy will review the submissions and make any additional changes (unclear language, he/she or parent/guardian or pupil/student edits)
 - o If the policy requires substantial edits, the Policy committee may send it back to the requesting committee for re-work
 - o If the policy has legal/regulator questions, the Policy committee may send it to district counsel for review
 - o If the policy looks good, the Policy committee will put it on the agenda for 1st read
- § After 1st read, BOE members will email the Policy Chair with their comments/questions/edits
- § At the next Policy committee, all feedback received will be reviewed
- § If a policy requires further edits/legal review that cannot be completed in time for the monthly BOE meeting, the policy can be pulled to be presented at a later date*
- § If a policy does not need further edits/review, then the policy can be added to the BOE agenda for 2nd read/Board approval
- § * NOTE: Pulled policies start the cycle over: Policy committee review, submit for 1st read and then 2nd read

Policy Management – ensure that ALL policies are up to date and reviewed regularly

- Create a repository of policies that includes their last adopted date
- Develop a process for reviewing policies on an ongoing basis
 - o Mandatory/mandated policies need to be reviewed yearly?
 - o All other policies should be reviewed every 5 years
- Identify policies that need review and submit to committee Chairs/SLT for review

Note: the Policy committee doesn't "own" any policies – probably the closest we get to owning policies are the bylaws

STRAUSS-ESMAY

Strauss-Esmay is the organization the district contracts with for their school policy and regulation consulting services.

They develop policy manuals based on state and federal laws and inform districts when policies

DistrictOnline (sub-division of Strauss-Esmay) is where policies and regulations will be housed at the conclusion of our conversion process. All policies will be able to be easily searchable.

Question of whether the perkins audit policies be forthcoming;
Strauss Esmay is working on the transition from PDF to Word.

Meeting adjourned at 7:02 pm.