

South Orange Maplewood School District
Policy Committee of the Board 2021
July 14, 2021 - 5:30 pm
Meeting Notes

Superintendent: Dr. Ronald Taylor

Committee Chair: Susan Bergin

Attendees: Elissa Malespina¹, Thair Joshua, Courtney Winkfield

Absent: Erin Siders

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

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

a. Policies for Second Reading (review any comments received)

The Policy Committee reviewed the following policies for second reading and provided relevant comments as noted:

- 1643- Family Leave
 - Needs the version from Personnel including spouse and child definitions.
 - Add via superintendent or designee after board.
- 2415.05- Student Surveys, Analysis and/or Evaluations
 - No changes - placed as submitted on the agenda.
- 3431.1 - Medical and Family Leave- repeal and reference 1643
- 4431.1 - Family Leave - repeal and reference 1643
 - The above policies will be repealed and referred to new Board policy 1643.
- 5111 - Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Students
- Discussion:
 - One of the concerns was whether foster children are covered by this policy; they are per provision on page 2 regarding children placed in the home of a district resident by a court order or agency.
 - Add language that residency check is not limited to returned mail.
 - Add consultation with the principal/administrator and McKinney-Vento liaison when applicable.
 - Dr. Perez discussed a residency check program - "CLEAR" - used by neighboring Districts to verify domicile info based on archivals in public records.
 - If used by other Districts, we should learn more about it - takes away subjectiveness; expenditure would go through FFT.
 - Residency checks verify the parent/guardian's residence so will be performed for all students in the home - include information in the regulation.

¹ See Footnote #2 below;

- ²5124 - Internal Student Transfers - BPW elementary integration per David Ruben email
- Discussion:
 - Ordering of considerations in transfer requests - Integration, sibling preference, well being of the child as being priority for student transfers; for example, bullying would be a priority over transportation concerns.
 - Reserving space for ELL and IEP students who need to be in certain classrooms; seats are left in Clinton for ELLs and IEP students.
 - Concern that if emotional well being is a factor, it could be used for students who are no longer with their friends.
 - Permitting such transfers leaves us in a vulnerable position.
 - Hardship language provides flexibility and is on a case by case basis.
 - Similar to intentional integration -- there's always an appeal even without an appeal process.
 - Whether to include a hard deadline date for transfers or put in regulation.
 - Remove language that submitting by this date receives priority.
 - Parents can choose to keep ELLs who graduated from the program in the same school or go into an algorithm.
 - Students in non-integrated grades can request to transfer to their zoned schools, integrated students would be placed via the algorithm.

b. Policies in Process of Being Prepared for First Reading

The Committee reviewed the following policies for first reading and provided relevant comments as noted:

- 2414 - Programs and Services for Students in High Poverty and High Need School Districts
 - As per Counsel, this policy can be repealed as it does not apply to our District -- we don't qualify as high poverty or high need.
- 2415 - Title 1 services - No Child Left Behind Programs/ Every Child Succeeds
 - This policy can be posted as submitted.
- 5350 - Student Suicide Prevention
 - The Committee was comfortable putting this policy on for first read as is
 - District will utilize best practices and resources
- 5530 - Substance Abuse
 - Question of where substance abuse education and prevention is?
 - Committee will request clarity from Counsel.
 - Policy will be sent back to C&I for further discussion.
- 9322 - Drug Free School Zones
 - As per Strauss Esmay, this policy is no longer applicable and will be repealed.

² Board Member Malespina excused herself from discussion for this policy. She rejoined the meeting thereafter.

c. Strauss Esmay Policy Alert Review

Committee to determine how to handle alerts to stay on top of policy changes.

2. New Business

- Timeline for updating online database with policies enacted in last 6 months;
 - Policies are being updated by the District Administration.
 - Anticipate completing the updates within the next week
 - Committee notes will also be posted on the District website;
- Meeting schedule

The Policy Committee meeting adjourned at approximately 7:25 pm.

