

The New London Board of Education Policy Committee meeting was held on November 19, 2024 via Zoom teleconferencing.

1. Call to Order

Nathan Caron, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Present for the Committee: Nathan Caron – Committee Chair
Bianca Alexis-Sylvain – Committee Member
Betsy Perkins – Community Representative

Absent for the Committee: Elaine Maynard-Adams – Committee Member
Colleen Delaporta-Wells – NLEA Representative
Scott Garbini – Community Representative

Present for the Administration: Kristea A. Francolino – Manager of Executive Support Services
Christine Pemberton – Executive Director of Talent & Human Resources
Cynthia Ritchie – Superintendent of Schools

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Approval of the Minutes

Motion by Ms. Mr. Caron, seconded by Ms. Alexis-Sylvain, to approve the minutes of the October 8, 2024 Policy Committee Meeting.

Motion carried, 3-0

4. Approval of Consent Agenda

- Motion by Mr. Caron, seconded by Ms. Perkins that the following items, as set forth on the Consent Agenda for the Policy Committee meeting of November 19, 2024, be approved unless removed by a committee member or the Superintendent of Schools:

1. Approve the Following Policies
 - a. 5145.14 – On Campus Recruiting
 - b. 5145.2 – Freedom of Speech/Expression
 - c. 9160 – Student Representation/Participation on the Board

Motion carried, 3-0

5. Items Pulled from the Consent Agenda

- Adopt Policy 5145.15 – Directory Information

Motion by Mr. Caron, seconded by Ms. Perkins, to adopt Policy 5145.15 – Directory Information.

Motion by Mr. Caron, seconded by Ms. Perkins, to remove “or student ID #” in paragraph 3.

Motion carried, 3-0

Vote on Main Motion as amended: Motion carried, 3-0

6. Discussion of Policy 5131.81 – Use of Private Technology Devices by Students

Mr. Caron stated that there are some committee members who are not present this evening, including Ms. Maynard-Adams, who had specifically requested that this policy be discussed. For that reason, he would like to continue the discussion of this policy to the next committee meeting. Mr. Caron did note that he believes that the policy does fit the guidance of the recommendations set forth by the State Board of Education. Ms. Ritchie added that there does seem to be a pattern between the surveys that shows that most staff are comfortable with the policy as is. She also shared that anecdotally, as she has walked buildings she has not seen many phones out during instruction. The lack of response is also telling, as this survey had been shared with all staff multiple times. She suggested that if needed, there be a check-in in the Spring. Ms. Alexis-Sylvain stated that she believes as long as they are not a disruption or a safety concern, she would recommend letting the governing parties do what they need to do in their buildings regarding cell phones. Ms. Perkins added that as she read through the surveys, it seemed that staff either had set rules or they didn't, and that part of the enforcement is also ensuring consistency. She added that she had spoken with some of the students that she works with regarding the use of cell phones, and that teachers share the policy and consequences, and most tend to follow. Mr. Caron stated that he appreciated the honesty of the staff who completed the survey, and noted that some of the topics mentioned throughout the responses were consistency, lack of follow through, bins and the opportunity for students to self-regulate were successful, and many staff mentioned earbuds and headphones.

7. Committee Member Comments

Ms. Perkins thanked Mr. Caron for running a tight ship with the meetings and shared that she enjoys attending.

8. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Caron seconded by Ms. Alexis-Sylvain, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried, 3-0

The meeting was adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristea A. Francolino
Manager of Executive Support Services