

POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Meeting: November 8, 2021

Members Present: Robin James, Jaime Pangburn, and Tracy Roberts (arrived at 5:40pm)

Also Present: Superintendent Susan Smith, Holly Whitmore, Matthew Campbell, and Cherie Faulkner (arrived at 5:35pm)

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting began at 5:30pm.
2. **2nd Review of Policy IMB-R – Teaching Controversial-Sensitive Issues:** This policy was questioned at the recent Board meeting. Page 2, Section V.B. needed updated language. Recommended language to add “made assurances” and remove “assured her/himself”. Discussion took place on how maturity levels are determined for controversial/sensitive issues. Discussion took place on page 2, Section V.D. Superintendent Smith advised language in bold red is recommended from legal counsel. Cherie Faulkner raised points on teachers expressing their point of view. Discussion took place on teachers teaching content only. Superintendent Smith will check with legal counsel if this section can be removed from the policy. Policy is ready for the Board pending legal counsel approval to remove the last sentence of section V.D.
3. **EBCA – Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan:** This policy is an annual review policy. No changes recommended. This policy is ready for the Board. Superintendent Smith shared the Emergency Binders required by the policy as well as procedures for emergency situations, sex offender lists, reunification procedures, etc.
4. **EBCC – Bomb Threats:** This policy added threats of violence. Some language changes are needed. Add content for procedures and consequences for handling threats of violence. This policy will go back to Policy Committee on November 30, 2021 for a second review.
5. **GBGBA – Workplace Bullying:** This is a new policy with language recommendations from Maine School Management. Cherie Faulkner suggested the disciplinary action should be listed out in the policy. Superintendent Smith stated there is not a simple list to follow. Every situation is different and would need to be handled according to the situation and law. Language changes are needed to include a process to appeal to the Board of Directors. This policy will then be emailed to the members of the Policy Committee prior to going to the full board.
6. **JK – Student Discipline:** This policy has language updates to reflect the law changes. These include new rules for the suspension of students in Grade 5 or lower. Additionally, the law states that students in Grade 5 or lower cannot be deprived of their recess time as a disciplinary consequence. The Policy Committee recommends that all students in PK to Grade 8 should not be deprived of recess as a disciplinary consequence. With that change, the policy is ready to go to the full board.
7. **JKD – Suspension/Expulsion of Students:** Recommended to remove expulsion from this policy as policy JKE covers the expulsion of students and procedures. Several changes were made to reflect the new law and the committee’s recommendation regarding recess (see JK above). This policy is ready for the Board.
8. **JKE – Expulsion of Students:** This policy has small language changes and updates to reflect the law changes. This policy is ready for the Board.
9. **JKF – Disciplinary Removal of Students with Disabilities:** No changes recommended. This policy is ready for the Board.
10. **JKF-R – Disciplinary Removal of Students with Disabilities – Admin Procedures:** This policy has language changes and updates to reflect the law changes. This policy is ready for the Board.
11. **JKAA – Use of Physical Restraint and Seclusion:** This policy has language changes and updates to reflect the law changes. There was discussion about restraints and seclusion. Superintendent Smith advised RSU #63 does not have seclusion rooms. This policy is ready for the Board.

12. JKAA-R – Procedures on Physical Restraint and Seclusion: This policy has language changes and updates to reflect the law changes. Small additional language changes were recommended. This policy is ready for the Board.

13. JL – Student Wellness: Page 3, Section VI. A. has small recommended changes. This policy was reviewed and revised by the Wellness Committee previous to the Policy Committee meeting. This policy is ready for the Board.

14. List of Policies Potentially Impacted by New Laws Discussion: List was reviewed. Superintendent Smith explained a brief overview of the new law impact on some of our policies.

15. Policies to Review Next:

For the Next Policy Meeting

EBCC – Bomb Threats/Threats of Violence (2nd Review)

DIE – Fund Balance

KDB – Public’s Right to Know

AC – Nondiscrimination/Equal Opportunity of Affirmative Action

ACAA – Harassment and Sexual Harassment of Students

ACAA-R – Student Discrimination/Harassment and Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures

ACAB – Harassment and Sexual Harassment of School Employees

ACAB-R – Employee and Third-Party Discrimination/Harassment and Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint

Policies to Review in January

EBABA – Chemical Hygiene

GBGAA – Exposure Control Plan

16. Next Meetings:

Policy Committee: Tuesday, November 30, 2021 at 5:30pm, Holbrook Middle School

The meeting adjourned at 7:02pm.

APPROVED: November 29, 2021