

**Policy Committee Meeting
January 27, 2005**

Present: Board President Darryl Porter; Commissioner Robert Brown (Chair);
Commissioner Willa Powell; Michael J. Looby; Kimberly Rohring.
Minutes recorded by Judith Rutalis.

Absent: Board Vice President Domingo Garcia

Meeting commenced at 5:18 p.m. Commissioner Brown then called the meeting to order since a quorum was present.

1. Budget Policy - Policy 6110

Commissioner Powell began with a discussion to amend Policy 6110 – changing the implementation date for program-based budgeting from 2004-05 to 2006-07. With general agreement from President Porter and Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Powell moved to amend the Policy. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. It was adopted 2-0 with Commissioner Garcia absent.

2. Code of Ethics- Policy 2160

Mr. Looby addressed the first agenda item by indicating that by resolution, he wished to advance a series of amendments to the District's Code of Ethics Policy. The first recommendation was to amend the definition of "family" to conform with new Board Policy 9540 relating to domestic partner benefits. Second, he recommended adding a definition of the term "gift" and more particularly using the definition adopted by the New York State Temporary Commission on Lobbying. Finally, he recommended making two technical corrections to reflect updated titles in the District's organizational chart and to correct a statutory citation.

President Porter, Chairman Brown and Commissioner Powell discussed the proposals and had no objections to the proposed changes and Commissioner Powell then moved to send the resolution to the full Board. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion and it was adopted 2-0 with Commissioner Garcia absent.

3. Code of Conduct-Policy 5300

Mr. Looby advised that preliminary discussions have begun on the annual re-authorization of the Code of Conduct prior to holding public hearings. There is one area that especially needs to be addressed: long-term suspensions for students with disabilities, due to a change in the law as of July 1. Mr. Looby advised that he has charged Kirsten Barclay, Assistant Counsel, with a special assignment while she is out on family leave to gather information from schools; and that he would, garner input from RTA, BENTE and students regarding any particular areas that may be addressed and considered for changes in the Code of Conduct.

Commissioner Brown wanted to know if this would require reporting the proposals and then having the Committee report back with suggestions. He'd like it put into the minutes that it would then go to the full Board for approval. He asked if there was anything the Committee needed to address today and Mr. Looby indicated that nothing needed to be done today, but that he did welcome early committee input, and would be returning with specific recommendations for the annual re-approval process.

President Porter and Commissioner Powell had no comments to make.

4. Controversial Materials

Ms. Rohring represented that she has requested feedback of librarians, the SDO's and David Silver regarding a proposed policy series addressing selection of materials and how to address controversial materials.

Commissioner Powell asked what the basis was for soliciting the feedback. She asked if it was language based.

Ms. Rohring advised that Monroe County and other urban districts have policies concerning materials contained in their libraries, selection of materials, how to address controversial materials; these examples were used in developing the DRAFT series.

Commissioner Powell inquired if there is a New York State School Boards Association policy on the topic.

Ms. Rohring stated she has not yet requested information from NYSSBA on this particular topic.

President Porter indicated that he has a contact at NYSSBA that he could approach.

Commissioner Brown charged President Porter to contact that person.

President Porter indicated that there was an incident that occurred at School No. 22 some time ago, and that he had asked that this issue be brought up sooner rather than later.

Ms. Rohring noted there have been numerous situations in her three years with the Board in which she has been asked for Board policies on this topic, but there are none currently. Development of this series is not a response to a single incident, but rather continued concern expressed by staff.

Mr. Looby indicates that the issue is to be addressed at Instructional Cabinet at its meeting on February 10, 2005.

Commissioner Brown asked if this would be an agenda item for the next meeting and Mr. Looby advised that yes, it would be.

5. Internet/E-Mail

Mr. Looby presented that there are policies in place regarding student use and certain sections of the Code of Conduct address this topic, but that he proposes to advance a more extensive proposal regarding electronic communications and equipment, including such issues as protecting the integrity and capacity of the system; and hoped to have any input that the Committee wished to give as he gathers information and ideas. He has had a meeting with Ed Omiccioli and Tim Cliby to discuss a more inclusive policy as it relates to e-mails and privacy, among other issues.

With regard to student access to the internet, for example, Dr. Cliby wants parents to be able to "opt out" rather than "opt-in" for accessibility by students, which is the current permission format. Commissioner Powell was under the impression that once the parents "opt-out" then that option remains with the student throughout their school career.

Mr. Looby states that Dr. Cliby thinks that the current procedure could be improved. Commissioner Brown asked about the legalities of "opt-in/opt-out". Mr. Looby said he would research what the current law states and will report back to the Committee. Commissioner Powell asked if the consent form could be used for the tenure of the student rather than an annual consent.

Commissioner Brown stated that he would like Dr. Cliby to include a significant number of users. He also asked what kind of Microsoft programs this would cover, i.e. can a teacher add Microsoft Word on their own or do they need the approval from the "worthies" at MIS/Central Office. Mr. Looby indicated that is among the reasons the subject has been brought up. He would be pleased to make that suggestion.

Commissioner Brown then stated that when he sat down at the table, in front of him was a "phantom" agenda that lists several topics, including some items that were addressed at tonight's meeting, but others that weren't.

1. Controversial Materials
2. Two items that were sent to the Policy Committee in June 2004 relative to gay/lesbian issues.

Ms. Rohring stated that relates to the policy on professional development and sensitivity training. Commissioner Brown asked Mr. Looby to follow up with any recommendations.

3. Parent Involvement Policy

Ms. Rohring indicates that it's an issue Ed Lemon has raised.

President Porter stated that there are possible violations of the Parent Involvement Policy.

Commissioner Brown then asked that agenda items to through the liaison to the Committee so he can check them out. He said if the parent policy needs amending, then Mr. Looby can check on it. He asked Ms. Rohring if she would prepare a chart as to timelines for policies to be checked.

Commissioner Powell advised that there already is one.

Ms. Rohring said she would take care of it as there are some that are very outdated.

Commissioner Brown then asked if there is a statutory requirement on budget format submission to City Hall. Ms. Rohring indicated that City Council is expected to act in February. It was delayed because of the ferry issue.

Commissioner Brown said that we need to coordinate so that we don't irritate them.

Ms. Rohring stated that only the program-based component required in the Board Budget policy wasn't done; set to be in line with format of the joint policy agreement.

Commissioner Brown stated that both resolutions—amending Policy 6110 and Policy 2160 should be forwarded to the Board at the February meeting for discussion.

Commissioner Powell moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m.