



NORTH MIDDLESEX REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE
Ashby – Pepperell – Townsend, Massachusetts

MINUTES – February 10, 2026
Virtual via Zoom

PRESENT

Chairperson	Randee Rusch	Member, Townsend
Co-Chairperson	Lisa Bloom	Member, At-Large
	Jackie White	Member, Pepperell
	Michael LaBossiere	Member, Pepperell
	Robin Eibye	Recording Secretary
	Brad Morgan	Superintendent
	Gary Burboa-Reese	Asst. Superintendent ~ Absent
	Nancy Haines	Business Manager ~ Absent
	Kevin Cormier	Asst. Business Manager
	Jeremy Hamond	Director of Operations

CALL TO ORDER

1. Lisa Bloom opened the meeting at 9:05 a.m. and announced that it was being recorded.

Roll Call:			
Randee Rusch	Yes	Jackie White	Yes
Lisa Bloom	Yes	Michael LaBossiere	Yes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- *Randee Rusch motioned, and Michael LaBossiere seconded to vote and approve the minutes dated January 6, 2026, as presented.*

Roll Call:			
Randee Rusch	Yes	Jackie White	Yes
Lisa Bloom	Yes	Michael LaBossiere	Yes

Vote: The motion was unanimously passed. 4/0/0

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

- Robin Eibye confirmed that no public comments were received.

OUR MISSION: At NM, we are committed to creating a diverse learning environment where students are provided a meaningful education through academic, social, and emotional learning experiences. Together with parents, caregivers, and the community, students are encouraged to ignite and embrace their individual potential to find success within NM and beyond

OLD BUSINESS

1. [JJE - Student Fund Raising Activities - 6/23/2014](#)

Members discussed Policy JJE Student Fundraising Activities. Randee Rusch stated that the proposed language is highly restrictive for sports and student activities. Superintendent Brad Morgan reported that Dr. Burboa-Reese met with Principal Smith to discuss fundraising concerns.

Members questioned the statement that students are barred by state law from organizing raffles or games of chance.

Jackie White reported difficulty locating the exact prohibition in the Massachusetts General Laws and cited language suggesting that raffle regulations may apply only above certain ticket or prize thresholds.

Michael LaBossiere noted that broader "games of chance" regulations may prohibit individuals under age 18 from running such activities.

Members questioned the claim that state law bars student-run raffles/games of chance. Some could not find explicit statutory language; others cited broader under-18 restrictions.

Superintendent Morgan explained that all district fundraising currently goes through the Superintendent's office. Questionable or large-scale fundraisers are reviewed with the business office, and some fundraisers have been denied. He noted the proposed policy is restrictive at a time when fundraising is increasing due to higher student activity fees.

Randee Rusch emphasized distinguishing between what is legally required and what is recommended by MASC. MASC guidance states that, under state law and regulation, students and student groups are prohibited from organizing raffles or games of chance. The Committee agreed that changes must first align with state law before considering additional local restrictions.

Members discussed language related to prohibiting student competitions and its impact on younger grades. Discussion included distinguishing between:

Individual prizes are tied to fundraising totals, and group incentives, such as extra recess or class-wide rewards, are not tied to individual amounts.

Ms. White asked whether to notify parent-run groups (e.g., boosters, Project Graduation). The consensus was to wait until we receive clarification from MASC and legal counsel.

Members agreed to revisit the policy at the February 24, 2026, meeting, with the option to postpone if additional information is needed.

Jackie White agreed to contact MASC for guidance.

Superintendent Morgan agreed work with legal for guidance.

Members agreed to continue the discussion to the February 24, 2026, meeting.

2. [JJH - Student Travel - 10/4/2021](#)

Based on administrative feedback, members discussed adding a requirement for health office clearance for student travel.

The committee discussed the placement of this language within the section on authority to approve or cancel travel.

Members supported applying health office clearance to all school-sponsored trips, not only overnight trips.

Consensus was to include this as a separate bullet applicable to all trips.

“Health office” was clarified to mean school nurses, who confirm accommodations for students requiring medication or with specific medical needs.

Medication Administration on Day Trips (Section G)

Members raised concerns about language, stating medication administration on day trips is “discouraged, if medically feasible”, and questioned legality and who determines what is “medically feasible.”

Members agreed that such determinations should come from a student’s medical provider.

Superintendent Morgan noted that most field trips now require a nurse, creating added cost and staffing challenges.

Nurse Accommodations on Overnight Trips (Section H)

A question was raised about whether the policy should require nurses to have their own room to secure medications.

Superintendent Morgan stated that this is already district practice.

The committee agreed it did not need to be explicitly written into policy.

Members agreed to revise Section C to include a bullet requiring nurse clearance for all school-sponsored trips.

Members agreed to continue Policy JJH to the February 24, 2026, meeting.

FIVE-YEAR REVIEW – VOTES MAY BE TAKEN

1. [JJH-R - Student Travel and Regulations - 7/25/2022](#)

Members reviewed the policy and agreed to remove the “Approved March 10, 2004” line to avoid confusion and improve clarity.

Jeremy Hamond requested minor linguistic and formatting corrections.

- *Randee Rusch motioned, and Michael LaBossiere seconded to vote and recommend Policy JJH-R Student Travel and Regulations for a first reading, with the edit of removing the “Approved March 10, 2004” line.*

Roll Call Vote:			
Randee Rusch	Yes	Jackie White	Yes
Lisa Bloom	Yes	Michael LaBossiere	Yes

Vote: The motion was unanimously passed. 4/0/0

2. [JJIB - Interscholastic Athletics - 12/21/2020](#)

Members reviewed JJIB and noted that MASC updated the policy in 2021, with no substantive changes recommended.

- *Randee Rusch motioned, and Michael LaBossiere seconded to vote and recommend no changes to policy JJIB Interscholastic Athletics.*

Roll Call Vote:			
Randee Rusch	Yes	Jackie White	Yes
Lisa Bloom	Yes	Michael LaBossiere	Yes

Vote: The motion was unanimously passed. 4/0/0

3. [JJIF - Managing the Care of Students with Athletic Concussions - 1/23/2012](#)

4. [JJIF-E1 - Parent/Athlete Head Injury Disclosure Form - 1/23/2012](#)

5. [JJIF-E2 - Post Sports-Related Head Injury Medical Clearance and Authorization Form - 1/23/2012](#)

6. [JJIF-R - Head Injuries and Concussions in Extracurricular Athletics - 1/23/2012](#)

Randee Rusch recommended confirming that the 2012 policy aligns with current district practices and best practices in concussion management.

Superintendent Morgan reported that Mr. Demar works closely with Catherine Hampson and Margaret Preston at the high school on concussion protocols, training, and testing. He supported a full review by the appropriate team.

It was confirmed that forms JJIF-E1 and JJIF-E2 are in the online policy manual but not in the district’s internal policy files.

JJIF-E2 appears to be a Commonwealth of Massachusetts form dated 2012.

Concern was raised that state forms may have changed and should not be frozen in local policy.

The committee agreed it may be preferable to reference state forms rather than embed copies, to ensure current versions are used.

Members agreed to continue JJIF, JJIF-R, JJIF-E1, and JJIF-E2 to future meetings after staff review for recommended revisions.

7. [JK - Student Conduct - 10/5/2020](#)

Members reviewed Policy JK – Student Conduct and Superintendent Morgan stated there were no issues with the policy from an administrative standpoint. He noted that each time the student handbook is updated, it is shared with district counsel to ensure compliance with the law and alignment with MASC guidance, including conduct-related portions.

Ms. Rusch noted that there were no specific changes to the district context.

- *Randee Rusch motioned, and Jackie White seconded to vote and recommend no changes to policy JK Student Conduct.*

Roll Call Vote:			
Randee Rusch	Yes	Jackie White	Yes
Lisa Bloom	Yes	Michael LaBossiere	Yes

Vote: The motion was unanimously passed. 4/0/0

8. [JKA - Corporal Punishment - 12/21/2020](#)

Members reviewed the policy and noted that it is short and essentially restates state law. Superintendent Morgan confirmed that corporal punishment is illegal in Massachusetts and that the district does not use it. It was further observed that MASC no longer carries JKA as a separate policy. The committee considered JKA a holdover and found it redundant, given its illegality under state law.

- *Randee Rusch motioned, and Michael LaBossiere seconded to vote to delete policy JKA Corporal Punishment.*

Roll Call Vote:			
Randee Rusch	Yes	Jackie White	Yes
Lisa Bloom	Yes	Michael LaBossiere	Yes

Vote: The motion was unanimously passed. 4/0/0

9. [JKAA - Physical Restraint of Students - 6/27/2016](#)

Brad Morgan reported:

- All PreK–12 staff are trained in best practices and in accordance with state law regarding physical restraint.
- Use of restraint at the high school level is extremely rare, and he could not recall an instance during his tenure.
- All restraints, when they occur, are reported to DESE, which monitors these reports closely.
- The district complies with current regulations and training requirements.
- Detailed administrative procedures for restraint are in place and aligned with DESE requirements.

It was confirmed that MASC recently updated this policy and made no recommended local changes, so no modifications were needed.

- *Randee Rusch motioned, and Michael LaBossiere seconded to vote and recommend no change to policy JKAA Physical Restraint of Students.*

Roll Call Vote:			
Randee Rusch	Yes	Jackie White	Yes
Lisa Bloom	Yes	Michael LaBossiere	Yes

Vote: The motion was unanimously passed. 4/0/0

NEW BUSINESS – VOTES MAY BE TAKEN

- None

NEXT MEETING

- February 24, 2026

ADJOURNMENT

- *At 9:50 a.m., Michael LaBossiere motioned, and Randee Rusch seconded to adjourn.*

Roll Call Vote:			
<i>Randee Rusch</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Jackie White</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Lisa Bloom</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Michael LaBossiere</i>	<i>Yes</i>

Vote: The motion was unanimously passed. 4/0/0

ACTION ITEMS

Policy JJE

- Jackie White to contact MASC to seek clarification on the legal basis for prohibiting student-run raffles/games of chance and what language is legally mandated versus discretionary.

- Jackie White to forward the existing email thread with counsel regarding fundraising to Michael LaBossiere and Superintendent Morgan for context.
- Superintendent Morgan to present current and proposed policy language to legal counsel to determine which portions are required by law and which may be modified.

Policy JJH

- Superintendent Morgan will consult with Cathryn Hampson, Health Services Supervisor, on the legality and appropriateness of the “discouraged, if medically feasible” language.

Policy JJIF, JJIF-R, JJIF-E1, and JJIF-E2

- Robin Eibye to provide JJIF, JJIF-R, JJIF-E1, and JJIF-E2 to Catherine Hampson, Mr. Demar, and other relevant health/athletic staff for review.
- Recommendations from Health Services and Athletics

Documents Reviewed / Referred To:

- 2026 02-10 Policy Subcommittee Agenda
- 2026 01-06 Policy Subcommittee Minutes
- [JJE - Student Fund Raising Activities - 6/23/2014](#)
- [JJH - Student Travel - 10/4/2021](#)
- [JJH-R - Student Travel and Regulations - 7/25/2022](#)
- [JJIB - Interscholastic Athletics - 12/21/2020](#)
- [JJIF - Managing the Care of Students with Athletic Concussions - 1/23/2012](#)
- [JJIF-E1 - Parent/Athlete Head Injury Disclosure Form - 1/23/2012](#)
- [JJIF-E2 - Post Sports-Related Head Injury Medical Clearance and Authorization Form - 1/23/2012](#)
- [JJIF-R - Head Injuries and Concussions in Extracurricular Athletics - 1/23/2012](#)
- [JK - Student Conduct - 10/5/2020](#)
- [JKA - Corporal Punishment - 12/21/2020](#)
- [JKAA - Physical Restraint of Students - 6/27/2016](#)

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Eibye

APPROVED: March 3, 2026
