

The Subcommittee on School Committee Policies met on Friday, January 30, 2026, in the Virtual Zoom Meeting. Present were Kathy Bent, Courtney West, Sara Ahern, Kristen Harmon, and Jen Kruczek.

Ms. Bent called the meeting to order at 1:04PM.

Minutes

- Motion by Ms. West, seconded by Dr. Ahern, and the Committee voted, unanimously, to approve the meeting Minutes of October 17, 2025.

Review Policy IKFE (Competency Determination)

- Dr. Ahern stated she is going to defer to Ms. Harmon on this policy. The policy as written does not cover everything as it was put into practice. The first read is going to need to be waived at the February School Committee meeting.
- Ms. Harmon stated when this policy was applied to the class of 2026, there was a gap in respect to the mastery component. There is a group of students that do not have an opportunity for mastery until finals at the end of May. They are looking for a local assessment in grade 10 math and ELA. For science mastery for class of 2026, some seniors took biology their sophomore year and it seems unfair to give them an assessment two years later. If they can pass an advanced class, then they must have passed biology. This would help all but five of the 92 students.
- Ms. West asked Ms. Harmon if she had a recommendation for the five students. Ms. Harmon stated they do not have the coursework to graduate anyways. They would be looking at a summer graduation.
- Ms. Harmon stated they added courses in English, Math, and Science. These courses apply more to transfer students.
- Ms. Bent asked if the standard intermediate algebra includes all competencies they should have. Ms. Harmon stated yes.
- Dr. Ahern asked for the mastery piece for advanced science courses, should that be inclusive of the final assessment of those classes. Ms. Harmon stated for class of 2026, some of these students took this class their junior year and now need to be assessed one year later.
- Ms. Bent stated the #5 changes can be removed after the class of 2026 graduates.
- Dr. Ahern stated there could be some items that would need to be added including Civics, US History, etc. Things are moving fast with the state.
- Ms. Harmon stated this policy will need to be revisited for the class of 2027.
- The Committee agreed to the changes.

Discuss a Potential New Policy JFABB (Admission of Exchange Students)

- Dr. Ahern stated this policy would give guidance around exchange students. She liked Boxboro's policy minus some of the details. The Committee made some changes to make it about Barnstable. They discussed if the J-1 visa is the correct one. They changed it to an F-1 visa.

Review Policy JEB (Entrance Age Policy)

- Dr. Ahern said she asked for this policy to be reviewed and she is now asking for it to be withdrawn. She did more research and many of the Superintendent's on Cape are not allowing students that have not turned 5 years old by September 1 to enter kindergarten. She reached out to the principals who are also against this.
- Ms. West disagreed. She wanted to allow it for kids that are advanced to enter kindergarten.
- Dr. Ahern stated the district is looking to move to full day preschool for 4 year olds to create more readiness for kindergarten.

Discuss Diversity Policies

- Ms. Bent asked to look at these policies since diversity comes up during School Committee meetings. She asked if anyone saw any need for changes in any of the policies.
- JBB (Educational Equity)
 - Dr. Ahern stated this policy captured the topic at a high level.
 - There was a discussion about adding dates the policy was reviewed and approved.
- AC (Non-Discrimination including Harassment and Retaliation)
 - Dr. Ahern stated this policy was recently reviewed by our School Attorney due to Title IX changes and it was up to date.
- GBA (Equal Employment Opportunity)
 - Dr. Ahern stated she has favorable data on hirings last year to share to the Committee next week. 20% were

non-white.

- GBA-1 (Affirmative Action Plan)
 - Dr. Ahern stated she worked with other districts with the Students Day and a community planning day.

Next Steps

- Dr. Ahern would like to put the policy on ADDA background checks on a future agenda. She needs time to work with Unions on this. This would involve adding DCF reviews to the checks in addition to CORIs and fingerprints.

Motion by Ms. West, seconded by Dr. Ahern, and the Committee voted, unanimously, to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 1:52PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jen Kruczek
Executive Assistant