

**Policy Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, December 5, 2017**  
**6:00 p.m.**  
**Wappingers Junior High School, Room 105**

**Attendees:** Karen Karath, John Lumia, Barbara Goodman, Peggy Kelland, Dwight Bonk, Alberta Pedro

There were no members of the public present at the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Chair Karen Karath.

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1. The committee discussed teacher use of cell phones to communicate during school hours and teacher use of personal Facebook accounts to “friend” students. The committee agreed that these matters are administrative in nature and should be addressed by the Building Principal or Human Resources.
2. **Review of NYSSBA First Installment 2017**
  - a. ***2160 Code of Ethics***

The revision to this policy involved additional language that describes the Board’s ability to act as a whole and decide to disclose information learned or discussed during executive session, where disclosure is not prohibited by law. The committee reviewed the attorney recommendation and concurred with the policy revision. This policy was recommended for First Reading.
  - b. ***2330 Executive Sessions***

The revision to this policy included adding language to emphasize the need for the motion to adjourn to executive session to be detailed enough to allow the public to understand the topic(s) the board will be discussing without disclosing specifics. The committee discussed the need to ensure that when the Board calls the meeting to order, the motion to adjourn to executive session must provide the public with the matters it wishes to discuss (as outlined in Public Officer’s Law). Should the Board discuss a matter during executive session which was not made in the original motion to adjourn, the board must amend the resolution to adjourn to executive session when it returns to the public session after the pledge to the flag. The committee reviewed the attorney recommendation and concurred with the policy revision. This policy was recommended for First Reading.

c. **6240 Investments**

The Committee discussed the benefits to the district of participating in cooperative investments, when available. Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Business Development, Kristen Crandall, also reviewed this policy and approved the recommendations. The Policy Committee agreed to recommend this policy for First Reading.

d. **4321.12 Time Out Rooms**

The district does not use time out rooms. This was confirmed by Dr. Bonk and Mr. Zipp. This policy will not move forward as it is not a practice in the WCSD.

**3. Update Policy 1230 Public Participation**

The November 20th NYSSBA OnBoard publication included an article entitled, "First Amendment Rights of Speakers at School Board Meetings." The committee was provided with a copy. The school attorney provided feedback, based on the NYSSBA article and current district policy, that while a parent is permitted to disclose information about their own child, the Board can determine that such disclosure in a public meeting is not in the best interest of the child nor a good idea with regard to possible disclosure of personal information about other students. The attorney indicated that individuals may be directed to speak with the Superintendent or other administrator about issues surrounding specific students or personnel. After lengthy discussion by the Policy Committee, the committee agreed to not amend or revise the current policy on public participation.

**4. New Items for Discussion**

- a. Chairman Karath asked that committee members provide the Policy Committee Chairperson with feedback via email on board member requests for policy consideration.
- b. Collection of NYSSBA Policy Manual 0000-9000 materials
  - i. Board members are welcome to submit any paper copies of the old manual to the District Clerk for disposal. This will ensure that there is no confusion with copies of the draft policies from the review process.

**5. Adjournment**

- a. The Committee adjourned at 7:40 p.m. The next meeting date will be scheduled in January.