

Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 11, 2020

1:30 p.m.

Remote via Zoom

(the meeting was recorded and uploaded to the Policy Committee webpage for viewing by the public)

Attendees: Peggy Kelland, Linda Rappaport, Eddy Slosower, John Lumia (arrived 2:15 p.m.), Dwight Bonk (arrived 1:44 p.m.), Alberta Pedro

The meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m. by District Clerk Pedro.

Roll Call: Mrs. Kelland introduced the Policy Committee Members, as follows:

Peggy Kelland, Board Member

John Lumia, Board President, Ex-officio member of the committee *(not present at the time)*

Linda Rappaport Board Member

Eddy Slosower, Board Member

Dwight Bonk, Deputy Superintendent of Human Resources *(not present at the time)*

Alberta Pedro, District Clerk

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- 1. Nominate Chair of the Policy Committee** - Eddy Slosower nominated Peggy Kelland as chairman of the Policy Committee. The nomination was seconded by Linda Rappaport. Vote taken.
Yes: Peggy Kelland, Linda Rappaport, Eddy Slosower, Alberta Pedro
Not Present: John Lumia, Dwight Bonk.
Motion carried.
Peggy Kelland was elected chair of the Policy Committee.
 - 2. Three Year Policy Review**
The policy manual is online in BoardDocs and divided by policy and regulation. Chairman Kelland provided background regarding the recently completed NYSSBA policy review project, which took 2.5 years to complete. The Committee agreed that it is much more manageable to conduct a review of all local policies in the policy manual on a three year cycle. Originally, the Committee began a five year review cycle with an average of 35 policies, however due to the hard work of the committee the first year resulted in a review of over 50 policies in the 0000-3000 series. The Policy Committee will now review policies on a three year cycle. The Committee reviewed the list of the policies for this year. The focus will be on the 4000 and 5000 series, plus the quarterly NYSSBA Policy Update Installments.

3. **Title IX Sexual Harassment** (effective 8/14 - waive Second Reading for Board approval 8/17)

Policy	Discussion
0110 - Sexual Harassment	Attorney recommendation to retire this policy as it is being replaced with two new policies. There will be separate policies and regulations for employees and students. Consensus to recommend Policy 0110 be retired.
0100.1 and 0100.1-R Sexual Harassment of Students	<p>The next three policies were developed by NYSSBA in March prior to the US Department of Education issuing final regulations regarding the district's obligation under Title IX with regard to sexual harassment. The final regulations were issued in May; however, NYSSBA was not able to issue revised policies recommendations. In order to meet the deadline of August 14, the school attorneys reviewed the policies and made recommendations.</p> <p>The Committee discussed whether these policies address staff to student and student to staff sexual harassment. Dr. Bonk confirmed that in reviewing the policies he believed that while the policies did not contain the specific wording, it was covered in the policy.</p> <p>Recommendation for First Reading and Adoption. Motion by Linda Rappaport, second by Eddy Sloshower. Vote taken. Yes: Peggy Kelland, Linda Rappaport, Eddy Sloshower, Dwight Bonk, Alberta Pedro Not present: John Lumia Motion carried.</p>
0100.2 and 0100.2-R Sexual Harassment of Employees	<p>Recommendation for First Reading and Adoption. Motion by Eddy Sloshower, second by Linda Rappaport. Vote taken. Yes: Peggy Kelland, Linda Rappaport, Eddy Sloshower, Dwight Bonk, Alberta Pedro Not Present: John Lumia</p>

	Motion carried.
0115-E Student Bullying and Harassment Complaint Form	Recommendation for First Reading and Adoption. Motion by Eddy Sloshower, second by Linda Rappaport. Vote taken. Yes: Peggy Kelland, Linda Rappaport, Eddy Sloshower, Dwight Bonk, Alberta Pedro Not Present: John Lumia Motion carried.

4. Reopening Plan Policy Review

Policy	Discussion
5100 Attendance	The Policy Committee reviewed the attorney recommendation for this policy. The policy already lists under excused absences “personal illness” and “quarantine” and provides other excused absences at the district’s discretion. Therefore, the current wording covers excuses that may arise due to COVID-19. Recommendations were made for clarity and a new section was added on how attendance will be taken in distance/remote learning. Motion for First Reading by Eddy Sloshower, second by Linda Rappaport. Vote taken. Yes: Peggy Kelland, Linda Rappaport, Eddy Sloshower, Dwight Bonk, Alberta Pedro Not Present: John Lumia Motion carried.
5420 Student Health Services	The current policy is general enough to cover COVID issues, no changes were recommended. The Policy Committee concurred.
4765 Online Learning	The district does not have this policy and the attorney did not recommend adopting it as it is not required. The Policy Committee concurred.
5151 Homeless Children	Changes were recommended to include gender-neutral language, and inclusion of homeless students and summer

	<p>school programs. Motion for First Reading by Linda Rappaport, second by Eddy Sloslower. Vote taken. Yes: Peggy Kelland, Linda Rappaport, Eddy Sloslower, Dwight Bonk, Alberta Pedro Not Present: John Lumia Motion carried.</p>
8131 Pandemic Planning	<p>This policy is not required. The Policy Committee agreed with the attorney recommendation not to adopt this policy.</p>

5. Items Tabled From Last Meeting

SEPAC/SEPTA (committee vs. PTA)

The District Clerk provided the committee members with an excellent resource on SEPTA/SEPAC. The PTA Council has dissolved. In light of this and the fact that school reopening is undetermined at this time, the Committee discussed tabling this item for a future discussion.

The motion to table the discussion on SEPAC/SEPTA to a future meeting made by Eddy Sloslower and seconded by John Lumia. Vote taken.

Yes: Peggy Kelland, Linda Rappaport, Eddy Sloslower, John Lumia, Dwight Bonk, Alberta Pedro

Motion carried.

6. Policy 4740 - Honor Roll

Currently the Honor Roll regulation provides students with the opportunity to earn High Honor Roll distinction with an average of 91 or above (including physical education), with no average less than an 80 in English, Social Studies, Math or Science. Students may also earn Regular Honor Roll status if they achieve an average of 85 to 90 (including physical education), with no average less than an 75 in English, Social Studies, Math or Science.

The Committee discussed whether the bars set for students were too lenient and did not foster a challenging track for students. The members discussed achievement and effort and their impact on a student's ability to earn higher grades. Students have different abilities and should be recognized for their hard work. The Committee discussed whether changing the threshold from 80 in English, Social Studies, Math and Science to 85 for High Honor Roll, and

changing the threshold from 75 to 80 in these subjects would foster high achievement from the students.

Dr. Bonk shared that the Committee may want to consider what the other area districts are doing for Honor Roll. Wappingers should be similar to other schools in the region so our students are not put at a disadvantage when applying for college. In the past, the Office of Curriculum & Instruction did a review of other districts in the region and this information was provided to a committee, which resulted in the current policy.

The Policy Committee agreed to request Honor Roll policies from other districts as a baseline comparison and continue this discussion at the next meeting. District Clerk Pedro will reach out with the 13 districts in Dutchess County to request their Honor Roll policy and regulation.

7. Continue 3 Year Policy Review

The Policy Committee discussed the following policies on the agenda:

Policy	Discussion
4000 Student Learning Standards	<p>The Policy Committee discussed adding language to include the approved Board Goals of incorporating local history and cultural diversity in the curriculum. Below are the revisions in bold and <u>underline</u>.</p> <p>11. The district will implement a process of ongoing review to identify and address any obstacles to the achievement of the Board’s articulated learning standards.</p> <p>12. <u>The curriculum will incorporate the history and current cultural diversity of the district.</u></p> <p>Motion for First Reading by John Lumia, second by Linda Rappaport. Vote taken. Yes: Peggy Kelland, Linda Rappaport, Eddy Slosower, John Lumia, Dwight Bonk, Alberta Pedro Motion carried.</p>

8. Schedule Next Meeting

The Policy Committee agreed to meet on the First Wednesday of every month at

4:00 p.m. The next meeting date will be September 2 at 4:00 p.m. The goal is to get through the 4000 and 5000 series of the policy review in April. The next meeting will begin with policy 4200 on the Three Year Policy Review for 2020-2021. A formal agenda will be forthcoming.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.