

**Policy Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, May 25, 2022**

**5:00 p.m.**

**District Office Board Room**

**Attendees:** Peggy Kelland, John S. Morgan, Eddy A. Sloshower, John Lumia (ex-officio), Daren Lolkema, Alberta Pedro

**Guests:** Dr. Michelle Cardwell, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction  
Students (attended virtually)

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chairman Peggy Kelland. There were no community members in attendance.

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1. **Approval of Minutes** - Motion to approve the April 6th minutes, as stated. Motion by John Lumia, second by John Morgan. Vote taken.  
Yes: Peggy Kelland, John Morgan, John Lumia, Daren Lolkema  
Not Present at Vote: Eddy Sloshower, Alberta Pedro  
Motion carried.
2. **John Jay Student Policy Presentation** - Students presented "Student Innovation Project Proposal: Political Discourse and Current Events in the Classroom" to the policy committee. The presentation reflected on Policy 4810: Teaching About Controversial Issues. The students conducted teacher and student interviews and offered three possible solutions, including: (1) Policy Change; (2) Teacher Collaboration and Support; and (3) Student Acclimation. See the powerpoint for specific details of the presentation.

The Policy Committee discussed the current process of discussing current affairs in the classroom and which curriculum is aligned to discussing current events. Chairman Peggy Kelland will respond to the students by email and the committee will review the NYSSBA policy changes and attorney recommendation regarding Policy 4810.

3. **Policy for Discussion**

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| 4741 - Weighted Grades | Committee members continued the discussion about how to weigh college level and advanced placement courses |
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|                                         | <p>and if there is a difference in the rigor that would impact how they are weighted. The feedback from Directors and Teachers is that AP and college level courses should be weighted the same because they are both college level courses. The decision to change a course to an Honors course is a district-level decision. There are other courses at a higher level that need to be reviewed. It is difficult to find a balance between courses.</p> <p>This is a new policy to the manual; however, it also reflects the current practice.</p> <p>Motion to recommend this policy for First Reading, as written, was made by Eddy Sloslower, second by John Morgan.</p> <p>Vote taken.</p> <p>Yes: Peggy Kelland, John Morgan, Eddy Sloslower, John Lumia, Daren Lolkema, Alberta Pedro</p> <p>Motion carried.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <p>4740 - Honor Roll and Regulation</p> | <p>Motion by Eddy Sloslower to change "Honor Roll" and "High Honor Roll" to "Academic Excellence" and "High Academic Excellence", second by John Morgan.</p> <p>Vote taken.</p> <p>Yes: Peggy Kelland, John Morgan, Eddy Sloslower, John Lumia, Daren Lolkema, Alberta Pedro</p> <p>Motion carried.</p> <p>The Committee discussed updating the averages needed to attain Academic Excellence designation noted in the regulation. The Committee made the following updates as recommendations to the administration:</p> <p><i>High Academic Excellence <del>The high honor roll</del> in senior high school contains the names of students who have an average of <del>95</del>91 or above including physical education. No student with an average of less than 80 in English, Social Studies, Mathematics or Science* will be considered. Students may not have any failures or incompletes, including physical education, to be eligible for High Academic Excellence <del>high honor roll</del>.</i></p> |

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|                                     | <p><b>Academic Excellence</b> <del>The regular honor roll</del> contains the names of students who have an average of <b>88 to 94</b><del>85 to 90</del>, including physical education. No student with an average of less than <b>80</b><del>75</del> in English, Social Studies, Mathematics or Science* will be considered. Students may not have any failures or incompletes, including physical education, to be eligible for <b>Academic Excellence honor roll</b>.</p> <p>Motion by Eddy Slosower to make a recommendation to the administration on the above changes to the regulation, second by John Lumia</p> <p>Vote taken.</p> <p>Yes: Peggy Kelland, John Morgan, Eddy Slosower, John Lumia, Daren Lolkema, Alberta Pedro</p> <p>Motion carried.</p> |
| 2510 - New Board Member Orientation | <p>The Committee discussed the importance of new board members attending the orientation with the Superintendent and Senior Staff administration.</p> <p>Motion by Eddy Slosower for First Reading, as amended below, second by John Lumia</p> <p>2. <b>New Board Member Orientation Discussions and visits</b> with the Superintendent and other members of the school staff <b>to be completed within 60 days of taking the Oath of Office</b>;</p> <p>Vote taken.</p> <p>Yes: Peggy Kelland, John Morgan, Eddy Slosower, John Lumia, Daren Lolkema, Alberta Pedro</p> <p>Motion carried.</p>                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 1400 - Public Complaints            | <p>NYSSBA suggested removing the section of the policy related to federally funded programs. This section was moved to a new policy (1405).</p> <p>Motion by John Lumia to recommend for First Reading, as amended.</p> <p>Second by John Morgan</p> <p>Vote taken.</p> <p>Yes: Peggy Kelland, John Morgan, Eddy Slosower, John Lumia, Daren Lolkema, Alberta Pedro</p> <p>Motion carried.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 1405 - Complaints about Certain     | <p>This is a new policy of which a majority was taken from 1400. The policy now reflects the changes the state made for filing complaints.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

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| <p>Federally Funded Programs (new)</p>                     | <p>Motion by John Lumia to recommend for First Reading, as amended.<br/> Second by Daren Lolkema<br/> Vote taken.<br/> Yes: Peggy Kelland, John Morgan, Eddy Slosower, John Lumia, Daren Lolkema, Alberta Pedro<br/> Motion carried.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <p>2160 - Code of Ethics<br/> 2330 - Executive Session</p> | <p>NYSSBA recommended adding language to both policies that board members may need to reveal information from executive session when compelled by court or law enforcement.<br/> Motion by John Morgan to recommend 2160 and 2330 for First Reading, as amended.<br/> Second by John Lumia<br/> Vote taken.<br/> Yes: Peggy Kelland, John Morgan, Eddy Slosower, John Lumia, Daren Lolkema, Alberta Pedro<br/> Motion carried.</p> |
| <p>6680 - Internal Audit Function</p>                      | <p>No changes other than adding a citation.<br/> <br/> Motion by John Morgan to recommend for First Reading, as amended.<br/> Second by John Lumia<br/> Vote taken.<br/> Yes: Peggy Kelland, John Morgan, Eddy Slosower, John Lumia, Daren Lolkema, Alberta Pedro<br/> Motion carried.</p>                                                                                                                                         |
| <p>4810 - Teaching About Controversial Issues</p>          | <p>NYSSBA recommended changes to the policy that are not legally required. The Policy Committee saw a presentation earlier in the meeting. The Committee will revisit this policy in the future.<br/> <br/> Motion to table made by John Lumia<br/> Second by Daren Lolkema<br/> Vote taken.<br/> Yes: Peggy Kelland, John Morgan, Eddy Slosower, John Lumia, Daren Lolkema, Alberta Pedro<br/> Motion carried.</p>                |

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| <p>5300 - Code of Conduct</p> | <p>The Committee discussed two options on the use of cell phones.</p> <p><i>OPTION 1</i><br/> <i>It is the policy of the Wappingers Central School District that the use of personal cell phones and other electronic devices is not permitted, by students in grades 9-12. This is inclusive of any common areas such as hallways, locker rooms, bathrooms, gym class, the cafeteria, the auditoriums, and classrooms (except for instructional purposes, and only at the discretion of the teacher).</i></p> <p><i>OPTION 2</i><br/> <i>It is the policy of the Wappingers Central School District that the USE of personal cell phones and other electronic devices is not permitted by students in grades 9-12. This is inclusive of specific common areas; locker rooms, bathrooms, gym class, the auditorium, and classrooms (except for instructional purposes, and only at the discretion of the teacher).</i><br/> <i>Cell phones may be permitted (at the discretion of the Building Principal) in the following common areas:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The Cafeteria</i></li> <li>• <i>Hallways (during passing periods)</i></li> </ul> <p>It is difficult to enforce and there is inconsistent practice in the schools. It was felt that school should be a place to interact face to face with people. Parents often encourage students to use cell phones during the school day. While the committee disagrees philosophically with the use of cell phones they understand that it is difficult to manage during lunch. Therefore, they will permit it in the cafeteria but not in the hallways.</p> <p>Motion to accept Option 2 excluding use in the hallways made by Eddy Slosower<br/> Second by John Lumia<br/> Vote taken.<br/> Yes: Peggy Kelland, John Morgan, Eddy Slosower, John Lumia, Daren Lolkema, Alberta Pedro<br/> Motion carried.</p> |
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**4. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn made by Daren Lolkema

Second by John Morgan

Vote taken.

Yes: Peggy Kelland, John Morgan, Eddy Slosower, John Lumia, Daren Lolkema, Alberta Pedro

Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.