

Minutes

Policy Committee Meeting
Waterford Board of Education
15 Rope Ferry Road
October 27, 2011

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ATTEST: 
TOWN CLERK

Present: Mr. Blevins, Mr. Egan, Mrs. McCarty, Ms. McLaughlin, Mr. Taglianetti

Absent: None

Staff: Mr. Powers, Assistant Superintendent

Guests: None

Mr. Blevins established a quorum and called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Motion: That the Policy Committee approves the minutes from meetings held on June 23, 2011.
McLaughlin, Egan: Unanimous

The meeting began with a final discussion of the proposed social networking policy and regulations. After agreeing that the policy allows for guidance rather than prohibition, the committee decided this was ready to go on to the Board of Education for a first reading at the November meeting.

The proposed changes to the policy and regulations for field trips were discussed next. The current field trip regulations do not cover field trips abroad, so language was inserted to cover these types of trips. The committee agreed that this policy and regulations will go to the Board of Education in November for a first reading.

The revised bullying policy and regulations were discussed next. Mr. Powers had attended a workshop given by legal counsel, Shipman & Goodwin, and had included handouts from that meeting in the packet. The handouts detail the statutory language changes and helps give an overview of the big changes to the law. Because some of the changes begin in January 2012, Mr. Powers thought it was important to get this to the Board of Education as soon as possible. The key to this policy is extensive training for the administration and staff once it has been approved. Mr. Taglianetti agreed that the key component is education and the communication of expectations. He sees the education of the students just as important as the education of the staff.

Mrs. McCarty noted that there is an increased focus on off-campus incidents and that prevention education is important. Mr. Powers agreed that the scope of reporting and who is responsible for reporting is much more expansive than the previous version. Mr. Egan stated that we must teach children to be resilient and comfortable in their own skin. Mr. Blevins commented that the basic principles covered in the anti-drug program, *Challenge*, could be applied to bullying as well.

Mr. Powers explained that the CT State Department of Education's Bureau of Accountability and Improvement provides resources like presentations and handouts relating to bullying that could be used in the education process. Under the revised policy, each school will appoint a school climate specialist and there will be on school climate coordinator for the district. The administration will need to do a school climate plan each year, and that will be used in educating the staff and students. There was discussion about

the root of bullying behavior and why children act out in this way. The committee agreed that the school climate was an important factor in the prevention of bullying behaviors. There was also discussion on what constitutes bullying under the new definition. The committee agreed this policy and regulations is ready to go to the Board of Education for a first reading in November.

The next scheduled meeting of the Policy Committee is Tuesday, November 15, 2011.

Motion: That the Policy Committee adjourn its meeting at 6:35 p.m.
Egan, McLaughlin: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,
Mrs. Kathleen McCarty
Recording Secretary