

Minutes

Policy Committee Meeting
Waterford Board of Education
15 Rope Ferry Road
December 16, 2010

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ATTEST:
TOWNS CLERK

- Present: Mr. Blevins, Ms. McLaughlin, Mrs. McCarty, Mr. Taglianetti
- Absent: Mr. Egan
- Staff: Dr. Collins, Interim Superintendent of Schools; Mr. Powers, Assistant Superintendent
- Guests: None

Mr. Blevins established a quorum and called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

- Motion: That the Policy Committee approves the minutes from the last meeting, held on March 29, 2010.
Taglianetti, McCarty: 3-0-1 Abstention: McLaughlin

Mr. Powers began with a review of policy 4117.1 – Retirement. The original policy had a clause whereby retirees would be recognized after ten years of service in Waterford. Mr. Powers added that since the revision specifically states the employee would be retiring under the Teacher Retirement Board (TRB) or the Municipal Employee Retirement Fund (MERF) that would set the threshold for recognition. Mr. Taglianetti was concerned that provision would not allow recognition for someone with many years of service who may be resigning as opposed to retiring. The Committee agreed to word the policy to read that recognition would be given for those resigning after ten years of service in Waterford or those retiring from TRB or MERF. The retirement policy will go before the Board of Education at their next regular meeting for a first reading.

The next policy up for discussion was 3524 – Chemical Hygiene. Mr. Powers explained that the district’s Chemical Hygiene Officer (CHO), conducts in-depth training for all science staff and also gives training to building staff at their faculty meetings each year. Mr. Blevins commented that the specific of the training(s) should be listed in the regulations as opposed to the policy. Mr. Powers also pointed out that each school has a binder containing all the Material Data Safety Sheets (MSDS) of all the chemicals that are used in the school. This comprehensive binder includes all chemicals used by the Buildings and Grounds department for cleaning purposes, which are stored separately. All chemicals intended for classroom use are kept in a locked, fireproof cabinet. The CHO keeps records of when chemicals are purchased and when they are used. Mr. Taglianetti also questioned language in the regulations regarding “extremely hazardous chemicals” and why they would even be allowed in the elementary schools. Mr. Powers explained the language leaves open the possibility to have outside programs come in to work with the children. Mrs. McCarty wanted clarification on the language regarding access to previous exposure records. Mr. Powers stated if there was an exposure incident that was something that the Health and Safety Committee would need to know. Names would not be disclosed, but staff would be made aware so they could discuss safety procedures and how to possibly prevent another incident from occurring. The chemical hygiene policy and regulations will be revised to address clarity and will be discussed at the next Policy Committee meeting.

Mr. Powers distributed information on some policies that are being looked at for revision and/or creation. First, Mr. Powers talked about our sexual harassment policy. Currently, we do not have regulations for this policy. The revised regulations along with some documentation on how the police department conducts related investigations were distributed.

Second, Mr. Powers presented a proposal on a new Social Networking policy and regulations. It is recognized that this is a hot issue that is always in the papers and on television. The policy and regulations were drafted by our legal counsel. Mr. Powers also distributed information he received at a Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) workshop on social networking. Because this is such a complex issue, Mr. Powers wanted the Policy Committee to have time to digest the information and think about what direction they wanted to take.

Lastly, Mr. Powers distributed revised regulations for the Community Use of Schools policy. He stated it is up to the Policy Committee if they would like to revise as it pertains to the fee structure for Recreation and Parks. Mr. Taglianetti suggested the Recreation and Parks Director be invited to the meeting where this policy is discussed.

The next Policy Committee meeting will be on Thursday, January 27, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.

Motion: That the Policy Committee adjourn its meeting at 6:45 p.m.
McCarty, McLaughlin: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,
Mrs. Kathleen McCarty
Recording Secretary