

## WSC POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE

### MINUTES

June 23, 2021

Meeting called to order at 9:28am. Roll Call: Ellen: YES, Kim: YES, both participating remotely (though Ellen was at Town Building)

Also Present (at Town Building): Dr. Omar Easy  
Members of the Public: Jeff Sklar, Alexia Obar

**Consent Agenda:** Kim moved to approve the consent agenda (minutes from March 10 and April 6), Ellen seconded. Vote: Ellen: YES, Kim: YES

#### **Public Comment:**

Jeff Sklar, 18 Brooks Rd. spoke on behalf of students. There are a myriad of problems regarding the School Council. The committee has been a bit pollyanna as regards School Council. The council, particularly at the High School, has not been run properly for years, no announcement of meetings, no postings, no agenda, no minutes. Even after an Open Meeting Law complaint, little has changed. After the first meeting of the year, none of the meetings were posted at the Town meeting vestibule or in the newsletters. Until recently, the number of community members who have attended was zero. DESE handbook describes how anyone could bring any topic and have any discussion about it. But under the current administration, this has not happened. Agenda has been controlled by the principal with no say by members of the committee, no co-chair. Videos of meetings are not being posted. He would encourage having Glenn Koocher's input, members of the committee are not familiar with the purpose of the school council. We have spoken with the principals, but we should reach out to the community. Should do training at the start of the year. Should consider adding an additional community member, so we could have one selected by principal, but also one by PTO. Meetings should be included on the school calendar and in newsletters.

#### **Policy Review**

- JJF (Student Activity Accounts). Need to add verbiage to ensure that a bond for those who access accounts is held in the Town Administrator's office. Ellen moved, Kim seconded. Ellen: Yes, Kim: Yes, 2-0 vote to bring edits to full committee.
- JLDBG (Teen Dating Violence)/ACAB(Harassment). Ellen will follow up with

Richard to review these and related policies for policies to review and any updates that might be warranted

- KE (Public Complaints) - Kim reviewed what other towns have done in terms of changes to MASC's reference policy. The committee and Dr. Easy discussed how to handle anonymity and to ensure how people will be confident regarding retaliation. Investigate all signed complaints, but consider unsigned complaints as well if appropriate, particularly where there are reporting requirements. Kim will re-draft incorporating MASC language and the Quincy policy clause. The committee also discussed Dover's parallel policy on curriculum complaints, and opted not to expand the policy to include that.
- BDFA (School Councils). Kim presented the latest update to the draft proposal, which split out the procedures from the policy. She highlighted a few example pieces that have been added, such as the importance of recording council meetings whenever possible. The value of student participation (which might suggest more privacy) is not as important as providing a voice and accessibility to parents. Dr. Easy will speak with principals in more depth, and get their feedback. Need to make it more inclusive and make sure everyone has a chance to be a part of it. Kim will email draft policy to Dr. Easy.

**Public Comment:** Alexia Obar. Re: discussion on retaliation, there is a great fear of retribution among parents. In light of that, allowing anonymous reporting is necessary at this time. At the High School, parental participation does not seem welcome, and a reason people may not want to serve is that they don't feel the council is effective. Parents will participate when they feel their voice is valued, and when access is made easier.

Dr. Easy indicated that he would like to review the policy draft and talk with the school principals, and he will give the committee his feedback on the proposal. Kim suggested that he also talk with the members who left School Council to get their feedback.

**Matters not reasonably anticipated by the Chair:** There were none.

**Motion to adjourn by Ellen, Kim seconded.**

**Roll Call: Ellen: Yes, Kim: Yes**

**Meeting adjourned at 10:30am**

**Corresponding Documentation:**

- **Agenda**
- **Policies JJF, JLDBG, KE, BDFA**