

WSC POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE

MINUTES

July 13, 2021

Meeting called to order at 9:05am.

Present in person: Kim Reichelt, Jessica Polizzotti

Members of the Public: Jeff Sklar

Public Comment:

Jeff Sklar, advocated for more communication regarding meetings, perhaps following the example of Newton which sends out both agendas and minutes on their listserv. He discussed the math return policy with Paolillo at DESE and they found two issues: (1) they reviewed the uses of the term “policy” in the freshman handbook, of which there are three. Two refer to actual School Committee policies, and the third is regarding test return. The High School can’t make up policy, and should remove that reference; (2) any student who has an IEP or 504 plan could require assessment return in their accommodations, and that would supersede any policy or practice that might not require that.

Review of Policy Manual status and format of manual: Kim reviewed the various formats different districts use for their manuals (on MASC site, section PDFs, individual files for each policy), and recommended moving to Google Docs. Kim will bring a few examples to next meeting, and present mock-up of our policy manual in Google Docs. Will need to discuss how maintenance would work.

Policy Review

- EB (Safety Program): bring to School Committee with MASC edits
- EBB (First Aid): Kim to review MASC edits with Ruth Mori
- EBC (Emergency Plans): bring to School Committee with MASC edits
- EEAEA (Bus Driver Exam & Training): bring to School Committee with MASC edits
- FF (Naming School Properties): leave our policy as is
- GBEBD (Online Fundraising/Crowdfunding): come back to this
- GBI (Staff Participation in Political Activities): bring to School Committee with MASC edits
- ID (School Day): bring to School Committee with MASC edits, and one clarification to “start of the official day”, instead use wording such as “each school’s designated arrival time”

- IJNDD (Policy on Social Media): will come back to this
- IMG (Service Animals): generally approved of MASC edits, but want to review with Ruth Mori
- JBB (Educational Equity): bring to School Committee MASC's new policy with wording edit to final paragraph for clarity
- JC (Attendance Areas): bring to School Committee with MASC edits
- JCA (Assignment of Students to Schools): review meaning of "hardship" with Dr. Easy
- JII (Student Complaints and Grievances): bring MASC policy to School Committee with additional phrasing to address retribution

Kim moved to bring policies EB, EBC, EEAEA, GBI, ID, JBB, JC and JII to the School Committee for approval, Jessica seconded. Vote 2-0

Kim will discuss policies EBB and IMG with Ruth. Jessica will discuss policy JCA with Dr. Easy

Minutes from June 23.

Kim suggested having Ellen review the minutes for accuracy, and posting the existing draft on our website in the interim, and Jessica agreed.

Matters not anticipated.

Kim noted that she had spoken with Chris and he wanted to know whether we add the mask policy to the next School Committee agenda. Kim and Jessica discussed the CDC guidance, the state of guidance from DESE and concerns about how to set a policy in light of possibly differing guidance. Jessica expressed concerns about balancing students' mental health (and the value of not wearing masks) against the physical health aspects of wearing them. Kim suggested we should involve the Board of Health, and added mask policy to her follow-up with Ruth. We will also need to discuss attendance policies and ensure they are consistent with the schools' health goals.

Motion to adjourn by Jessica, Kim seconded, vote 2-0. Meeting adjourned at 10:38am

Corresponding Documentation:

- **Agenda**
- **Policies EB, EBB, EBC, EEAEA, FF, GBEBD, GBI, ID, IJNDD, IMG, JBB, JC, JCA, JII**