

Coventry Board of Education
Coventry, Connecticut

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
Administration Building Conference Room
Approved Minutes of Monday, July 12, 2010

Members Present: Jennifer Beausoleil, Policy Chair
Cheryl Trudon

Member Absent: Mary Ann Emanuele

Also Present: Donna Bernard, Ph.D.

I. CALL TO ORDER

J. Beausoleil called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m.

II. POLICY DISCUSSION / REVIEW:

A. Review of Policy Committee October 2009 Meeting

J. Beausoleil said the committee recognizes the work the previous committee did and will use the minutes as a guideline.

B. Recommendation to BOE for Revision

1. 3541 Transportation – Students

Dr. Bernard noted that the biggest change in transportation was the addition of a complaint procedure.

J. Beausoleil noted “Provision of Transportation” on page 2 and the limit of distances to walk. The group discussed the item and left it at the new Shipman and Goodwin wording.

MOTION: To place policy 3541 with the revision date of 7/6/10 on the next Board agenda to be warned for revision.

By: C. Trudon Seconded: J. Beausoleil

Result: Motion passes unanimously.

2. 5132 Student Dress

The group discussed the changes to 5132. They discussed various issues surrounding head coverings, spaghetti straps and tank tops. They group agreed to remove item “k. See-through clothing, tank tops, spaghetti straps, or sleeveless shirts.”, as it was covered in other areas.

Item l. was discussed. A spelling error was found; “revel” should be “reveal.” The word “excessive” was added right before “upper thigh.” The last sentence regarding spandex was removed.

Under item a. J. Beausoleil noted the last sentence and thought the word “Clothing” was too restrictive. The group agreed that the last

sentence should just start with “Outerwear.” In addition they changed the word “clothing” to “outerwear” in the second sentence.

The group decided, in the opening sentence, the wording “unless specifically authorized by the administration” would be added after the word “prohibits.”

J. Beausoleil asked to add “harassing” to item h. right after “offensive.”

MOTION: To place policy 5132 with the revision date of 7/6/10 and with noted 7/12 changes on the next Board agenda to be warned for revision.

By: C. Trudon Seconded: J. Beausoleil

Result: Motion passes unanimously.

3. 5144 Student Discipline

Dr. Bernard noted that Shipman and Goodwin reviews their model annually.

The group discussed student mobile phone use and the consequences related to having it in the classroom.

They discussed conduct on and off school grounds and disruption to the educational process.

J. Beausoleil noted page 8 and item 4 and that parents are notified “following” the suspension. There was concern as to how soon parents are notified. They agreed to change the wording to “regarding the suspension.”

MOTION: To place policy 5144 with the revision date of 4/30/10 and with noted 7/12 changes on the next Board agenda to be warned for revision.

By: C. Trudon Seconded: J. Beausoleil

Result: Motion passes unanimously.

4. 5145.1 Search and Seizure

Dr. Bernard noted the inclusion of personal technical devices. J. Beausoleil said “personal data storage devices” should be added as well to the “e.g.” section in the first paragraph. J. Beausoleil asked that “including technology storage areas” be added under item 2. A. J. Beausoleil asked that “appropriate legal authority” be added to the last sentence of item 3. Dr. Bernard also added “or designee” after “Superintendent.” The group agreed.

MOTION: To place policy 5145.1 with the revision date of 7/6/10 and with noted 7/12 changes on the next Board agenda to be warned for revision.

By: C. Trudon Seconded: J. Beausoleil

Result: Motion passes unanimously.

C. Discussion and Recommendations for Next Steps

1. Revisions:

a. 1330 Use of School Facilities

The group discussed the policy and if there was a new Shipman and Goodwin model to follow. J. Beausoleil said there should be a reporting mechanism included. In addition, she noted the policy states that no keys should be given to any person who is not an employee of the Board. She said there are groups in violation of this statement. Dr. Bernard said there should be a legal model policy brought in. C. Trudon asked that Mrs. Levinson be consulted with regard to other towns' use of the track field. J. Beausoleil said she would like to see a "none of the above" category added. The group agreed that "Other" be added to Group III. and to add an item "F. Community and/or Family Use."

The group agreed that a model policy would be brought back and that Fiscal would also need to review the fee structure.

b. 3280 School Activity Funds

Dr. Bernard noticed that the current policy is the Shipman and Goodwin model. She said the true work and specifications needed are in an addition to the Administration Regulation. J. Beausoleil said the policy should have a reporting mechanism. In addition as part of the policy, she said each group at its inception should provide, as part of their letter of interest, what will happen to their funds when the group disbands.

The group discussed the use of the current interest funds in the high school activity funds. J. Beausoleil said she would like to see a committee of a variety of students formed to decide what would be done with the historical residual balances. It was discussed the Board does not have jurisdiction on specifying how the funds are spent.

Dr. Bernard said she would come back to the committee with a policy draft. In addition, although not normally done, she would review the Administrative Regulations with the Policy Committee.

Items C. 1. c and C. 2. a were tabled to the next meeting – Tuesday, August 10 at 9:30 a.m.

III. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To Adjourn at 11:45 a.m.

By: C. Trudon

Seconded: J. Beausoleil

Result: Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberlee Michaud, BOE Clerk

Approved: August 10, 2010