

**Coventry Board of Education
Policy Committee – Unapproved Minutes
Meeting of Thursday, November 13, 2008**

Members Present: Kathleen Ryan, Policy Committee Chair
Mary Kortmann, Policy Committee Member

Administrator Present: Donna Bernard, Superintendent

The meeting was called to order at 6:39 p.m. by K. Ryan.

I. Policy Revisions

A. 4118.4-Workplace Privacy, Monitoring and Internet Use

Dr. Bernard said the only change is on page 3, paragraph 4, where the title of the plan should be:
Disaster Recovery Plan.

M. Kortmann and K. Ryan agreed with the change.

M. Kortmann and K. Ryan said the policy is ready for the December Board Meeting.

B. 5131.7-Bullying Behavior in the Schools and 5131.9-Cyber Bullying

Dr. Bernard said this is Shipman and Goodwin policy language and represents what Shipman and Goodwin says districts should be doing.

K. Ryan said she likes the new action plan stated in the revised policy and agrees with parents of both parties getting involved.

Dr. Bernard said the policy is well defined. She said this policy addresses the time of intervention based on a one-time incident, not only after repetitive occurrences.

K. Ryan asks if Policy 5131.7 and Policy 5131.9 should reference one another. Dr. Bernard agreed.

Dr. Bernard stated that Policy 5131.7 takes a more legally conservative stance.

K. Ryan mentioned the case “Hacker vs. Thomaston Board of Education.” She said the State Supreme Court ruled you can expel a student if he does something outside of school that would have implications to the educational process.

K. Ryan and M. Kortmann agreed to add a tag onto the fourth paragraph of Policy 5131.7, page 1. It will say: “Disciplinary action may also be taken when the conduct is determined to be disruptive of the educational process.”

Dr. Bernard stated an example: if two girls “beat each other up” in a neighborhood, it is not the responsibility of the Board of Education. But, if one girl is afraid to come to school, because of the fight in the neighborhood, then that is disruptive to the educational environment and the Board of Education may take action.

M. Kortmann asked, with reference to Cyber Bullying, if Dr. Bernard will put into action the disciplinary process where the parents of both sides meet.

Dr. Bernard says this is where there is a need to cross reference.

K. Ryan said this pertains to bullying from school computers.

M. Kortmann said this deals with non-school computers as well.

M. Kortmann said in the Cyber Bullying Policy (5131.9) there should be a reference to the administrative regulations that are developed as a result of policy 5131.7.

Dr. Bernard agreed with M. Kortmann's recommendation.

M. Kortmann and K. Ryan agreed to add as the second sentence of the seventh paragraph of page 1, Policy 5131.9 saying "The administrative regulations that pertain to Policy 5131.7 shall also apply herein."

M. Kortmann and K. Ryan agreed to add as the last sentence to paragraph one of Policy 5131.7: "For Cyber Bullying, see Policy 5131.9."

K. Ryan said a comma should be removed from the sixth paragraph, first sentence of Policy 5131.9. It is the comma right after "from a non-school computer." She also said she would like to change the wording of the last sentence in the sixth paragraph to read: "to kill or hurt any staff member or student."

It was agreed the suggested change would be brought to the December Board meeting.

C. 9140-Committees

Dr. Bernard, M. Kortmann and K. Ryan discussed the definition of special committees.

M. Kortmann and K. Ryan agreed on the revision draft of Policy 9140 except for adding the following two words "Ordinarily" and "However" as follows:

1. C. Ordinarily a special committee's only.....
- D. However, the following...

II. Discussion on Policy 3541-Transportation

There was policy wording discussion on sidewalks, bus stops, narrow streets, and transportation bids requesting computer software to reduce the bus stops.

Dr. Bernard stated the bus contract comes up for bid in December 2008.

The meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Michelle M. Bates, BOE Subcommittee Clerk