



POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES

March 16, 2015

Seymour Middle School

Library Media Center Classroom

7:00 p.m.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Jen Magri
Yashu Putorti
COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Jay Hatfield
OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE Christine Syriac, Superintendent
James Freund, Principal Seymour High School
Pat Boyle, Board Clerk

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Mr. Putorti called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance

II. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

A. Policy

1. 6146.2 Instruction-Statewide Proficiency/Mastery Examinations
Mrs. Syriac passed out copies of policy 6146.2 with corrections as recommended by CABE. References to CMT or CAPT testing have been deleted where they have been phased out. Mr. Putorti and Mrs. Magri had no objection to the changes. Mr. Putorti stated he would like to wait to the conclusion of the meeting to decide which revised policies should be brought to the full board.
2. 5121 Students-Examination/Grading/Rating
Mrs. Syriac made minor changes to this policy. It was discussed that there was no need to add any type of benchmark assessment. Mr. Putorti and Mrs. Magri had no objection to these changes.
3. 5131.911 Bullying Prevention & Intervention Policy
Mrs. Syriac said that the state now requires a section on Teen Dating Violence. Minor revisions were made to this policy including this addition. Safe School Climate Plans will also need to be updated. The committee had no objection to the changes.
4. 6146 Instruction-Graduation Requirements
Mrs. Syriac is seeking permission to collaborate with Mr. Freund to revise this policy. They would like to do this before the NEASC review. The performance standards and graduation requirements need to be aligned with the NEASC standards. The performance standards can no longer be based on CAPT results. Mrs. Magri wanted to make sure the information for the class of 2013 and 2014 was removed. Mr. Freund wants the Capstone Project added. Mrs. Syriac stated we need to make the graduating class of 2019 aware that this is going to be a requirement. Mr. Putorti said if the state does not require a Capstone Project, what is our expectation for the project? Mrs. Syriac responded that Oxford's project is very intensive, Woodland's has more flexibility. Mr. Freund wants to make sure the project is something that students are passionate about and should be developed to meet all of the students' needs. A discussion on allowing a student with sufficient credits to graduate in three years was held. The consensus of the committee was that no action needed to be taken on this subject. Mrs. Syriac and Mr. Freund will return to the committee with their recommendations.

- 5 a. 5113 Students-Attendance/Excuses/Dismissal
Mrs. Syriac feels this is another policy that needs to be re-done with Mr. Freund's help. Mrs. Syriac reported that the current policy has taken a punitive approach to the problem of students being tardy. Seymour would like to get the students to school without having to punish them. Mr. Freund wants to have more leeway when dealing with the chronically tardy students. Most of these students lack structure at home and he needs to be able to use his discretion in dealing with their attendance and behaviors. It was also noted that students may no longer withdraw from school at 16 with parental permission, they must now be 17. It was the consensus of opinion that we need to work with these students to make sure they graduate; taking credit away or giving students zeros for being absent or tardy is counterproductive. Mr. Freund and Mrs. Syriac would like to have a consistent policy for teachers to follow. Mrs. Syriac and Mr. Freund will return to the committee with their recommendations.
- b. 5113.01 Students-Attendance Policy-Seymour High School
This policy is in place strictly for Seymour High School and will be reviewed by Mr. Freund and Mrs. Syriac in conjunction with policy 5113 and recommendations will be brought to the committee for discussion.
- c. 5123 Students-Promotion/Acceleration/Retention
Mrs. Syriac pointed out that in the area of retention there should be a meeting between the principal and parents before March 15. That does not necessarily mean that the child is being retained but that there is a possibility of it happening. The committee felt that the Attendance and Retention section of Policy 5113 should be removed as this policy already deals with retention. Mr. Putorti asked about retention at the high school. Mrs. Syriac said that there are graduation requirements at the high school to address this. Mrs. Magri asked if we still did home visits. Mr. Freund said yes, the high school usually sends an administrator along with someone from the guidance department to visit the house. Mr. Freund wants to make sure the high school procedures are in agreement with the Board of Education policy.

Mr. Putorti and Mrs. Magri agreed to recommend to the full Board of Education the revised policies: Policy 6146.2, Policy 5121, and Policy 5131.911. The remaining policies Policy 6146, Policy 5113, Policy 5113.01 and Policy 5123 will be revised by Mrs. Syriac and Mr. Freund and brought to a future Policy Committee meeting for discussion.

B. Reports

1. Chairman's Report
None
2. Superintendent's Report
None

III. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: (Mrs. Magri/sec., Mr. Putorti) to adjourn the meeting

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mrs. Magri, Mr. Putorti

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Submitted by:
Pat Boyle