

SCHOOL COMMITTEE: POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

Present: School Committee
Terri Medeiros, Meghan Fleck,
Melissa Keefe, and Andrea Thorrold

District Administration
Lori Duerr, Sonia Tellier, and Anne Barnes

Absent:

Date: Thursday, May 2, 2019

1. Review and Approve Minutes

There were no suggested revisions to the draft minutes from the April 2 and April 11, 2019 meetings. The minutes were approved and subsequently forwarded for posting.

2. Discuss Planned Student/Parent/Guardian Handbook Revisions

This process is being initiated at a slightly earlier time this year and is introduced along with a memo outlining actions and deadlines associated with the revision and publication processes. Members discussed the timeline for presenting the handbooks to School Committee for first read at the second May meeting (May 21, 2019). A tentative second read and vote for approval is slated for the first June meeting (June 11, 2019). The ultimate goal is to have the completed handbooks available for printing on or before July 31, 2019.

Among the substantive changes is the revision of the "Homework Guidelines," which were originally created in 1999 and have not been revised since then. Melissa opened that the 45 minute timeline for third and fourth grade students is long but also noted that she has not encountered homework that requires 45 minutes on task. Another member noted the 90 minutes for junior high is also long; again, it is infrequent that the students would have to devote that amount of time to homework. Times include consideration of long-term projects, and some students may persist longer than expected. Differentiation occurs in planning assignments and is not discussed explicitly in the document, which is intended for students and families as well as faculty and staff.

With regard to revisions in the Morse Pond Handbook, members discussed the rationale for the addition of Gaga-Ball rules. The addition of cell phone requirements was complimented.

With regard to the Lawrence Handbook, positive behavioral expectations are articulated to elaborate on the school's motto of "Pride, Respect, Responsibility & Compassion." This is an extension of last year's addition.

With regard to the Falmouth High School Handbook, members highlighted that on page 6, there is a need to both replace "god cause" with "good cause" as well as to simplify the redundant language regarding "good cause" for dismissal. Terri noted that "good cause" is somewhat ambiguous. Sonia is tasked with sharing this feedback with Principal Gans who can clarify the language. Principal Gans is also asked to clarify language regarding searches. Andrea questioned the conditions when searches of parents' vehicles would be permitted. There are legal citations throughout the handbooks, and final changes will be vetted by counsel before insertion in the handbooks.

Like with discussion of the Lawrence Handbook, questions also arose with regard to the high school policy regarding use of cell phones and other devices. There are many approved uses via bring your own device. Finally, members discussed the added references to electronic cigarettes and vaping in the substance use prevention areas of the middle school and high school handbooks and asked for research about whether it is legal to prescribe medical marijuana/cbd oil to minors. Sonia will contact Dr. Parkinson.

3. Other Item 1: Introduce Proposed Policy Statement KHB: Advertising in Schools

An initial request was received as a fundraising request and bears an approval date of April 13, 2017. Signatures on the form include the former superintendent, the FHS principal, and the Athletic Director. Our team engaged in extensive discussion of policy statements KHA: Public Solicitations in the Schools (current policy) and KHB: Advertising in Schools (proposed addition to the policy manual). Members tweaked MASC's model language for policy KHB to provide two versions: one allowing advertising and one not allowing it. The team agreed to add both to the agenda for the upcoming School Committee meeting (May 7, 2019) as a first read and to open the discussion about allowing or not allowing the practice.

4. Other Item 2

- Agenda for Next Meeting
- ✓ Review Section G
 - ✓ Advance to Section H if time allows

Next meeting: Monday, May 13, 2019, 5 – 7 pm, at the Falmouth Public Schools' Administration Building

Respectfully Submitted by,

Sonia L. Tellier
Assistant Superintendent

Anne Barnes
Director of Out of District Placement & Policy