

SCHOOL COMMITTEE: POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

Present: School Committee District Administration
Melissa Keefe, Terri Medeiros, and Andrea Thorrold Lori Duerr, Sonia Tellier, and Anne Barnes

Absent: Leah Palmer

Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2020

This meeting was conducted virtually via Zoom.

1. Other Item 1: Discuss BBA: School Committee Powers and Duties

Lori brought the question forward of why school nurse appointments require a higher level of approval within the policy. Terri recalled that there is a safety reason referenced in Massachusetts law. Sonia obtained clarification from our MASC Field Representative that the law stipulates approval of nursing appointments. Our representative shared that while it was requested to be revised, this requirement was not changed with the drafting of the Education Reform Act of 1993. It was noted that the correct legal citation is MGL 71.53, not 71.37.

2. Review and Approve Minutes

There were no suggested revisions to the draft minutes from the March 30, 2020 and April 22, 2020 meetings. A minor change was made to the language regarding parking fees in the June 15, 2020 minutes to which members agreed. All minutes were approved and subsequently forwarded for posting.

3. Other Item 2: Preview of Online Policy Manual

Sonia shared a preview of the published policy manual with the subcommittee members. Sonia explained that an app extension feature is being added to the manual enabling “key word” searches. Section J is the last remaining section to be posted. All sections will be available beginning on Wednesday, July 1, 2020.

4. Annual Student/Family Handbook Review

✓ Continued Review and Discussion of Falmouth High School’s Handbook

Revised, discussed, and updated sections appear in the annotated list that follows:

- Athletics Update: Sonia confirmed with the Athletic Director. The football team is the only one that records height and weight. There is no junior varsity golf team.
- Locations Update: FHS no longer has a photo room due to the conversion to digital photography, so reference to the photo room was removed.
- Continued discussion is needed to respond to questions about use of hall passes and whether they can or need to be produced electronically. Passes are mentioned in a variety of areas, and decision will need to be applied to all of them.
- Members recommended renaming “card playing” as “gambling.”
- Information about and areas to be shifted for inclusion in the COVID-19 Response Version of the Handbook:
 - Corridors, passing time, and passes
 - Protocol for visitors
 - Health office as DESE’s COVID response guidance requires a separate space/isolation room be available for students exhibiting symptoms.

It was noted that the tabs on the website can be re-ordered in the future.

- Drugs, alcohol, substance use - Andrea feels there may be push-back and perhaps unintended consequences with regard to the reference to the School Resources Officer (SRO), noting discussion during a minority caucus hosted by the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) she’d attended the previous week. Melissa inquired whether we have a job description for the SRO for members to review. The position is documented in the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the District and the Falmouth Police Department as the SRO is not a district employee. Discussion ensued with regard to the District’s 3-year goal embracing restorative practices. Sonia described the administrators’ book study this year and visit to Suffolk by principals and central office administrators. She offered to loan members the title from the book study. Terri suggested that someone give a workshop on restorative practices for all School Committee members.
- It was suggested that Drugs, Alcohol, and Tobacco be combined into one paragraph.
- Fire Alarms: Chapter 222 will be checked with regard to this infraction.
- Deliveries: Question arose whether the policy should read “not permitted” or “discouraged.”
- School Safety: This is a new section. Andrea cited minority caucus discussion and the potential for concerns regarding bias associated with wellness checks. Anne provided an example of a wellness check being conducted due to a serious threat uttered by a student.

5. Other: Upcoming Information

- Anticipated Agendas for Tentative Meetings on Tuesday, July 7, 2020 & Tuesday, July 21, 2020; 3 – 4:30 pm
 - ✓ Continue Annual Student/Family Handbook Review
 - ✓ Other

Respectfully Submitted by,

Sonia L. Tellier
Assistant Superintendent

Anne Barnes
Assistant Director of Special Education