

SCHOOL COMMITTEE: POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

Present: School Committee
Terri Medeiros; Andrea Thorrold; Leah Palmer;
and Jim Hardy, MASC Field Representative
District Administration
Lori Duerr and Sonia Tellier

Absent: Melissa Keefe

Date: Monday, July 13, 2020

This meeting was conducted virtually via Zoom.

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

The members reviewed the language in the final paragraph of the policy and engaged in discussion with Jim Hardy, our MASC Field Representative to understand the relationship between this policy and Massachusetts General Law (MGL).

2. 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:

- Naviance: Sonia will follow up with the Director of Guidance about how this information is shared with students and families. Determination is that it does not belong in the FHS Handbook language.
- Community Service: Move and align this section with the area in which VIPS appears as half of the section includes references to VIPS.
- Library: Members determined that since this section largely overlaps with the information on the FHS Library section of the school's site, it does not need to be duplicated within the Handbook. Sonia will follow up with the Library Teacher and the Director of Digital Learning about this change.
- List of Highlighted Policies: Near the very end of the Handbook, there is a section that lists select policies that align with Federal, State, and Local laws and regulations. This section will be removed as it largely repeats in areas throughout the Handbook. The following sentence will be added at the beginning of the Handbook: "Falmouth Public Schools adheres to Federal, State, and Local Laws and Regulations and maintains its own Policy Manual."
- Glossary: Members determined that this section will be removed from the Handbook. In addition, and in alignment with the prior conversation to allow for dynamic updates throughout the year, Sonia will seek areas in which definitions can be added as footnotes or "hover over" language that will appear through the online supported digital Handbook.
- FORMER Appendix A: Members agreed to delete the current Appendix A, which is a pasted in version of Chapter 222. In lieu, we will paste a link to Chapter 222 on the Mass.Gov site within the Discipline Section of the Handbook.
- NEW Appendix A: Drawing from lessons learned in the spring and the understood role of digital interaction as a key strategy for long term blended learning, the District's Telecommunications Guidance will be added as the new Appendix A.

3. Other Item 2: Policies JEC: Daily Attendance and JH: Student Absences and Excuses

During the publication effort, it was discovered that there is a high degree of overlap in content between Policy JEC, which is a standing policy, and JH, which is new policy adopted after review of the MASC Model Policy language. JH includes the added procedural language required by law. Members agreed to revisit this policy again at our next meeting with an expected plan to advance their recommendation to the School Committee on the second July meeting, which is scheduled for Tuesday, July 28, 2020.

4. Other Item 3: Upcoming Information

Anticipated Agenda for Meeting on Tuesday, July 21, 2020; 4 – 5:30 pm

- ✓ Continue Annual Student/Family Handbook Review
- ✓ Other

Respectfully Submitted by,

Sonia L. Tellier
Assistant Superintendent

Anne Barnes
Assistant Director of Special Education