

DUDLEY-CHARLTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Minutes of the Policy Review Subcommittee, held Monday, March 18, 2019, at Shepherd Hill Regional High School, 68 Dudley-Oxford Road, Dudley, 9 a.m.

In attendance were subcommittee members Elaine M. Rabbitt, Mary N. Antocci, Chair, Kristine E. Nash, Ed.D., Interim Superintendent of Schools.

1. Call to Order

The meeting came to order at 9:07 a.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes were approved as written.

3. Communications

Dr. Nash brought forth the update from legal counsel recommending that Policy GCCBA - Additional Sick Leave, be eliminated. Legal counsel stated that personnel benefits should not be included within policy. Benefits should be negotiated in union contracts and wage and personnel benefits. All attendees were in agreement that this policy should be eliminated and to bring this to the full School Committee for the 3/27/19 meeting.

Dr. Nash also brought forth Policy JEB, Kindergarten, for discussion due to discoveries in current procedures and resulting implications. This policy was discussed in detail during Agenda Item Policy Updates Required by Law/MASC Policy Updates.

4. Policy Updates Required by Law/MASC Policy Updates

A. Mrs. Antocci recommended that policies be reviewed and updated for consistency in format, including title, and MGL References and Policy Cross References. All agreed.

B. Policy JEB, Kindergarten, was discussed per Dr. Nash's request under Communications. Kindergarten enrollment is an option, not a mandate and there is not law that requires Kindergarten attendance. The current DCRSD Kindergarten Policy JEB includes a convoluted early admittance rule for Kindergarten.

When researched, it was found that this early attendance exception policy was created within the Kindergarten Policy JEB in response to the request of one person years ago. Current early attendance exceptions include at least 6 children who are taking seats from children who are of proper Kindergarten age, and may not be of the maturity or developmental level required for Kindergarten. There is no real clear way to determine this.

Dr. Nash recommended elimination of the portion of the Kindergarten Policy JEB which speaks of the

Kindergarten early admittance rule, and bring consistency back to the enrollment procedure for Kindergarten. All were in agreement.

C. Mrs. Antocci filled the subcommittee in on the continued work she had done on the table of DCRSD versus MASC Policies, and the process she was using to go through the policies in order to bring the subcommittee thoughts on any action that should be taken. Mrs. Rabbitt agreed to take a look at the remaining policies to work on entering them into the table. This table is being used to methodically review each policy that DCRSD has, any that MASC recommends for legal or other update, and as a means of tracking progress.

Mrs. Antocci asked if Mrs. Sullivan's assistance could be enlisted to add columns into the table for MGL References, Policy Cross References, and also to move the columns for School Committee Reading and Approval Dates to the far right of the chart. Dr. Nash agreed to bring this to Mrs. Sullivan.

5. Policy Review Continuation

A. The Policy Subcommittee reviewed the list of policies that are being prepared for Amendments, Deletions of Current Policies, and Adoption of New Policies at the next School Committee Meeting on 3/27/19. The policies discussed were:

- * A - Bullying
- * ACAB - Sexual Harassment
- * ADC - Tobacco Products on School Premises
- * JEB - Requirements for Entrance
- * GCCBA - Additional Sick Leave
- * JLCC-A - Life Threatening Food Allergies
- * ACE - Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability
- * JLCEA-R - Life Threatening Food Allergies

B. In reference to the Food Services Policy, the Food Services Manager will be scheduled to present and discuss student account balance issues and compounding debt being incurred by the district, as well as possible remedies, at an upcoming School Committee Meeting.

6. New Business

No additional new business items were brought forward at this time.

7. Future Agenda Items

Members of the Subcommittee will forward additional agenda items to the Policy Subcommittee Chair.

8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:07 a.m.

