

PLAINVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Policy Subcommittee Minutes

Committee: Policy Subcommittee Virtual Meeting

Date: Monday, November 23, 2020

Time: 4:30 p.m.

Attendees: Chair Crystal St. Lawrence, Thomas Arcari, Ruth Boiczyk, Foster White, Becky Tyrrell, Ex-officio

Also Present: David Levenduski, Asst. Superintendent

The meeting of the Policy Subcommittee was convened at 4:37 PM.

Members of the Policy Subcommittee discussed the following policies and regulations.

Policies:

5131.6	Students: Alcohol Use, Drugs and Tobacco (REVISED)
5113	Students: Attendance and Excuses (REVISED)
5113.2	Students: Truancy (REVISED)
5141.4	Students: Child Abuse, Neglect and Sexual Assault (REVISED)
5111.1	Students: Residency (REVISED)
5131.911	Students: Bullying (REVISED)
4420	Personnel: Conduct and Discipline—Sexual and Other Unlawful Harassment (REVISED)

Regulations:

4420	Personnel: Sexual and Other Unlawful Harassment Complaint Procedures (REVISED)
5113	Students: Attendance Procedure (ELIMINATION)
5131.911	Students: Bullying (REVISED)
5141.4	Students: Reporting of Child Abuse, Neglect or Sexual Assault (REVISED)

Mr. Levenduski explained that there will be a change from CABE policies to Shipman and Goodwin policies this year. The advantages of switching include:

- 1) Shipman and Goodwin is the district's law firm and therefore understand the intricacies of the law and how to set policy, and
- 2) Because Shipman and Goodwin represent our district in legal matters, it is beneficial to use their policy language in case they are needed to defend the Board's position.

The aforementioned policies are being proposed as either updates to current policies, new policies that the district doesn't have, or policy revisions due to new legislation. Because of the pandemic, there hasn't been new legislation that would necessitate policy changes over the last several months. There was legislation passed before the pandemic that necessitated change to current policies, and as a result are part of these proposals.

4420 Personnel: Policy regarding Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment in the Workplace

Reg. 4420 Personnel: Administrative Regulations regarding the Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment

There are policy modifications due to legislation changes to Title IX which includes:

- a) Definition of prohibited conduct revised to include conduct that meets the Title IX definition of sexual harassment.

- b) New provision requiring any employee who receives a report of prohibited conduct based on sex to notify the Title IX Coordinator.
- c) New provision directs the Superintendent to develop a Title IX formal complaint process that complies with the elements of the new regulations.
- d) Districts must adopt and publish grievance procedures that provide for the prompt and equitable resolution of student and employee complaints. Such process is required to be posted on the district's website.
- e) Schools are required to respond when they have "actual knowledge" of a complaint of sexual harassment, which can include a report to any employee of an elementary or secondary school.
- f) Schools must respond when harassment occurs "in the school's education program or activity". Also, expand the definition of "program or activity" to include locations, events, or circumstances over which the school exercised substantial control over both the respondent and the context in which the sexual harassment occurs.

5131.911 Students: Bullying Prevention and Intervention Policy

Reg. 5131.911 Students: Safe School Climate Plan

This proposed policy is an adoption of Shipman and Goodwin's policy language. The policy will most likely need to be revisited, as many definitions and protocols are slated to be modified and posted by the Connecticut State Department of Education by August 1, 2021. Most notably is a change to the definition of bullying.

5141.4 Students: Child Sexual Abuse and Assault Policy and Reporting Procedure

Reg. 5141 Students: Reports of Suspected Abuse or Neglect of Children or Sexual Assault of Students by School Employees

In 2019, an Act allowed for all mandated reports of child abuse and neglect to file their reports electronically in a manner the Commissioner prescribed. All electronic reports must include the same information currently required for oral and written reports. A reporter who electronically files an initial report must respond to further inquiries DCF makes within 24 hours of receiving the report.

5111.1 Students: Eligibility to Attend Plainville Community Schools

5111.2 Students: Homeless Children and Youth

Reg. 5111.2 Students: Administrative Regulations Regarding Homeless Children and Youth

These proposals take the Homeless Children and Youth section of the current policy and creates a new policy and regulation devoted to Homeless Children and Youth. These changes also take into account the following legislation:

- a) Adds "unaccompanied youth" to existing law's appeals process, generally requiring boards of education to notify students of hearings and decisions.
- b) Modifies the burden of proof in cases where the child is claiming to be homeless.
- c) Establishes additional steps that boards must take in the case of a homeless child.

NEW -Students: Physical Activity, Undirected Play and Student Discipline

This is a mandated policy to address any school employee who prevents an elementary school student from participating in the period of undirected play as a form of discipline during the regular school day.

5131.6 Students: Drug and Alcohol Use by Students

NEW-Students: Chemical Health Policy for Student Athletes

There is new legislation regarding tobacco and nicotine products, including e-cigarettes and vapor products. Specifically, the legal age to purchase these items changed from 18 to 21 years of age. The Act also bans smoking and e-cigarettes on the grounds of child care centers and schools. Specific language has been added regarding tobacco products/vaping products into the Shipman and Goodwin policy, as it was not in their original policy.

5113 Students: Student Attendance, Truancy and Chronic Absenteeism

This policy serves to condense two of the district's current policies into one (Attendance and Excuses and Truancy). The language in the current policies were updated in the spring of 2019, and therefore are current

to the law, but can be incorporated into one, succinct policy with adoption of Shipman and Goodwin's language. Mr. Levenduski also proposed to eliminate the current Attendance Regulation (Reg. 5113), as it reflects past laws and regulations and are not up-to-date with the new language and legislation. He does not recommend creating a new Regulation at this time, as there are procedures listed in the proposed policy as well as the current student handbooks.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the subcommittee decided to present the aforementioned policies, regulations, and eliminated regulation to the Board of Education for approval at their next business meeting on Monday, December 14, 2020.

Mr. Levenduski asked subcommittee members if they would be willing to meet again in January to review a few more policies and regulations. He stated that Mrs. Gryguc will be in touch with possible meeting dates. He also stated that the Curriculum Subcommittee should meet soon as well to approve new Graduation Requirements and to review a new African American/Latino studies program which will need to be adopted soon.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING OF THE POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY TOM ARCARI. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED. The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Joan Calistro
Recording Secretary