

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PLAINVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION
POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2022**

Special Meeting Topics: Review of Policies and Regulations for Board of Education Approval

- Place and Time:** Plainville High School Learning Commons, 47 Robert Holcomb Way, Plainville, CT @ 4:30 PM
- Members Present:** Chair Crystal St. Lawrence, Thomas Arcari, and Lori Consalvo
- Members Absent:** Foster White, Deborah Hardy and Ruth Boiczuk
- Also Present:** David Levenduski, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
- Early Departures:** None

Chair Crystal St. Lawrence called the special meeting of the Plainville Board of Education’s Policy Subcommittee to order at 4:37 PM.

The following policies and regulations were up for review and discussion:

- Regulation to Policy Reg 5141.4 to Pol. 4415 Students: Reports of Suspected Abuse or Neglect of Children or Reports of Sexual Assault of Students by School Employees—**CHANGED FROM OLD REG TO PERSONNEL POLICY**
- Policy No. 5141.4 Students: Child Sexual Abuse and Assault Policy Reporting Procedure--**REVISED**
- Policy No. 5144.4 Students: Physical Activity, Undirected Play and Student Discipline--**REVISED**
- Policy & Reg. No. 5113 Students: Student Attendance, Truancy and Chronic Absenteeism--**REVISED**
- Policy & Reg. No. 5147 Students: Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act—**NEW POLICY**
- New Policy No. 6140.1 Instruction: Curriculum Exemptions—**NEW POLICY**
- New Policy No. 4315 Personnel: Policy for the Minimum Day-Free Lunch Period for Teachers—**NEW POLICY**

Mr. Levenduski began the discussion of the following policies and regulations:

Policy and Regulation No. 5141.4 TO Policy No. 4415 Students—Reports of Suspected Abuse or Neglect of Children or Reports of Sexual Assault of Students by School Employees:

Mr. Levenduski stated that the following regulation in Students section (under Policy No. 5141.4) will now be moved to a policy in the Personnel section (Policy No. 4415). Also, Section 5 of the Public Act No. 22-87 makes changes to the distribution requirements for the BOE’s written policy for the mandatory reporting by school employees of suspected child abuse or neglect. The revision also reflects the new requirements that, beginning July 1, 2023, school employees must complete training provided by the Department of Children and Families and that Boards of Educations must electronically distribute information on DCF’s sexual abuse and assault awareness prevention program.

Policy No. 5141.4 Students—Child Sexual Abuse and Assault Policy Reporting Procedure:

This will reflect the addition of Policy No. 4415, which was previously noted as a Regulation of this policy.

Policy No. 5144.4—Students—Physical Activity, Undirected Play and Student Discipline:

Public Act No. 22-81 amends the requirement in Connecticut General Statute 10-221o that Boards of Education adopt a policy concerning the circumstances when a school employee may prevent elementary students from participating in the entire time devoted to physical exercise in the regular school day as a form of discipline. With this revision, the law now mandates that the policy contain specific requirements. Boards have discretion in adopting rules to regulate the restriction, as a form of discipline, of time devoted to physical exercise; however, the Board's policy must meet the requirements in Section 9 of Public Act No. 22-81. This policy is offered as a sample for consideration and the board of education may consider other reasonable rules regarding the deprivation of physical exercise or undirected play as a form of discipline consistent with board philosophy and the needs of individual districts, as long as the policy provisions are consistent with Public Act No. 22-81.

Policy and Regulation No. 5113 Students—Student Attendance, Truancy and Chronic Absenteeism:

Section 16 of Public Act No. 22-47 requires Boards of Education to update their policies and procedures concerning truant students to include provision of notice to the parent or guardian of a child who is truant. The notice to parents must include information concerning the existence and availability of the 2-1-1 Infoline program, and other pediatric mental and behavioral health screening and tools. The Act also requires that the policies and procedures concerning truant students, beginning July 1, 2023, require a school mental health specialist to conduct an evaluation of truant students to determine if additional behavioral health interventions are necessary for the well-being of the child. Guidance from the State Department of Education regarding mental health wellness days is also reflected in these changes.

Policy and Regulation No. 5147 Students—Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act

In July, 2022 the U.S. Department of Education, Civil Rights, released new guidance regarding supporting students with disabilities and avoiding the discriminatory use of discipline under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. The policy and one of the forms were revised to reflect this guidance. Edits to reflect gender-neutral language and other technical revisions were also made to the policy, regulation and forms.

New Policy No. 6140.1—Instruction—Curriculum Exemptions

The district did not have a stand-alone policy for the legislated curricular exemptions parents could select. This new policy also includes "firearm safety programs" as an area parents could opt their children out of. Boards of Education are required by statute, to provide HIV/AIDS instruction and implement the sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention program described in this policy. Boards of Education may, but are not required to provide family life education and firearms safety programs. For instruction in any of these areas, as well as dissection, state law provides that parents and guardians may submit a written request for a curricular exemption, which must be granted in accordance with specific statutory requirements.

New Policy No. 4315 Personnel—Policy for the Minimum Duty-Free Lunch Period for Teachers

The State legislature passed Public Act No. 22-80, which included a provision that all teachers/certified staff shall be provided a minimum 30-minute, uninterrupted lunch period.

It was the consensus of the subcommittee to bring all of the aforementioned policies and regulations to the next Board of Education meeting for their first reading on November 14, 2022.

Mr. Levenduski also briefly discussed policies concerning Gifted and Talented students; Naming of Areas in Schools; Administration of Medication in Schools and student committees for Dress Code (PHS and MSP). These topics will be discussed more thoroughly at an upcoming meeting.

Mr. Levenduski stated that the next Policy Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for *Monday, December 19, 2022*. More information will follow.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY LORI CONSALVO TO ADJOURN THE POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING AT 5:47 PM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY THOMAS ARCARI. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,



Joan Calistro

Recorder of Minutes