

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PLAINVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2023**

**Special Meeting Topics: Review of Policies for Board of Education Approval**

**Place and Time:** Plainville High School Learning Commons, 47 Robert Holcomb Way, Plainville, CT @ 5:00 PM

**Members Present:** Chair Crystal St. Lawrence, Rachel Buchanan, and Lori Consalvo

**Members Absent:** Foster White, Tom Arcari 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 5:20 PM.

The following policies were up for review and discussion:

Policy No. 4003	Personnel: Increasing Educator Diversity Plan— <b>REVISED POLICY</b>
Policy No. 5112	Students: Admission to the Public Schools at or Before Age Five— <b>NEW POLICY</b>
Policy No. 5414.4	Students: Recess and Play-Based Learning— <b>REVISED POLICY</b>
Policy No. 6130	Instruction: Parental Access to Instructional Material— <b>REVISED POLICY</b>
Policy No. 6202	Instruction: FAFSA Completion Rates— <b>REVISED POLICY</b>
Policy No. 9323	Bylaws: Construction and Posting of Agenda— <b>REVISED POLICY</b>

Mr. Levenduski began the discussion of the following policies:

**REVISED Policy No. 4003 Students—Increasing Educator Diversity Plan:**

Under prior law, boards of education were required to develop and implement a “plan for Minority educator recruitment” to reduce racial, ethnic and economic isolation and provide students with opportunities to interact with teachers from a variety of racial, ethnic, and economic backgrounds. Effective July 1, 2023, state law requires that such plan be named the “increasing educator diversity plan.” The new law also changes various references from “minority” to “diverse” without redefining the term’s underlying meaning. Pursuant to Section 10 of Public Act 23-167, Boards of education are now required to submit their “increasing diversity plan” to the Commissioner of Education by March 15, 2024 for review and approval.

**NEW Policy No. 5112 Students—Admission to the Public Schools at or Before Age Five:**

Under current law, boards of education are required to cause each child five years of age and over and under eighteen years of age who is not a high school graduate and is residing within the district to attend school in accordance with state law. In addition, current law requires children to be at least five years old on or before January 1, 2024, children must turn five years old on or before September 1 of the school year in order for that child’s parent or guardian to enroll the child in kindergarten. The new law further provides, effective July 1, 2024, that a child who is not five years old on or before September 1 of the school year may be admitted to public school (1) upon written request by the child’s parent or guardian to the school principal and (2) after the principal and an appropriate certified staff member conduct an assessment of the child to ensure that admitting the child is developmentally

appropriate. In light of the new statutory requirements, a policy was drafted to address admission to the public schools.

**REVISED Policy No. 5414.4—Students—Recess and Play-Based Learning:**

Public Act No. 23-159 and Public Act No. 23-101 add new play-based learning requirements for pre-school through fifth grade. Beginning with the 2024-25 school year, each board of education must provide for play-based learning during the instructional time of each regular school day for students in preschool and kindergarten. Teachers who instruct students in grades one to five must be permitted to utilize play-based learning during the instructional time of a regular school day. This revised policy will include these upcoming play-based learning requirements and a few minor technical revisions for clarity.

**REVISED Policy No. 6130—Instruction--Parental Access to Instructional Materials**

This policy is being revised to comply with Public Act No. 23-160, which requires boards of education to make available all curriculum approval by the district's curriculum committee and all associated curriculum material in accordance with the requirements of the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendments.

**REVISED Policy No. 6202--Instruction—FAFSA Completion Rates**

This revised policy will include the new Free Application for Federal Student Aid ("FAFSA") graduation requirements for students graduating in 2025 and beyond. Students in these graduating classes are now required to satisfy one of the following before graduation; (1) complete a FAFSA; (2) for students without legal immigration status, complete and submit to a public institution of higher education an application for institutional financial aid; or (3) complete a waiver of completion of the FAFSA and/or financial aid application. This policy has been revised to identify that certain certified educators may complete a waiver on behalf of any graduating student, under specific circumstances. There were also technical revisions made for clarity.

**New Policy No. 9323—Bylaws—Construction and Posting of Agenda**

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, boards of education are required to post an agenda in various locations at least twenty-four hours prior to the time of a regular or special meeting. Section 6 of Public Act 23-160 expands the duties of boards of education to require boards to post on the board's website any associated documents that board members may review at such meeting (provided such documents are not exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act). This policy was revised to reflect the new requirements.

It was the consensus of the subcommittee to bring all of the aforementioned policies to the next Board of Education meeting for their first reading on November 13, 2023.

Mr. Levenduski stated that there are other policies forthcoming which include Suicide Prevention and Intervention, the change of a Graduation Requirement and Suspected Abuse or Neglect of Children. These topics will be discussed more thoroughly at an upcoming meeting.

Mr. Levenduski stated that the next Policy Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for *Monday, January 8, 2024*. More information will follow.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY LORI CONSALVO TO ADJOURN THE POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING AT 6:33 PM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY RACHEL BUCHANAN. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

Respectfully submitted,



Joan Calistro

Recorder of Minutes