

Board of Education, Ellington, CT Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

The Policy Committee of the Ellington Board of Education met on Monday, April 2, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the School Administration Building, 47 Main Street, Ellington, CT.

Attendees: Mr. Stephen Cullinan, Superintendent
Mr. Bruce Brettschneider, Director of Special Services
Mr. Neil Rinaldi, Principal of Ellington High School
Committee Members: Mrs. Tracey Kiff-Judson, Mr. Dale Roberson,
Mr. Andrew McNamar, Mr. Howard Friedman, Mrs. Kris Picard-Wambolt

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Committee Chairperson, Kris Picard-Wambolt.

Agenda Items:

Review of Policy 5141.21 - Administration of Student Medications in the Schools

Mr. Brettschneider informed the Committee that this policy must be reviewed every two years. He presented and reviewed the policy and highlighted the changes to the current policy. He indicated the changes have been approved by the district's Medical Advisor and Head Nurse.

A motion was made to recommend approval to the full Board of Education Policy #5141.21 – Administration of Student Medications in the Schools as presented.

1st. Mrs. Tracey Kiff-Judson

2nd. Mr. Howard Friedman

VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

Discussion of Canine Search Policy

Mr. Rinaldi indicated that he first approached Mr. Cullinan regarding the possibility of the Board establishing a policy to allow the use of drug sniffing dogs during the last school year. He informed the committee that historically, per school year, Ellington High School encounters on average four instances involving drugs, yet last year there were twenty-four. This school year there have been five to date. Mr. Rinaldi indicated he and Assistant Principal Dan Uriano feel having this policy would deter students from bringing drugs to school.

Mr. Cullinan had information available in the form of a handout entitled “Drug Detection Dog Searches of Property at School” and a sample policy from C.A.B.E.

There was much discussion regarding this issue and the committee was notably divided. It was concluded that since this is such a controversial issue the entire Board should be part of the discussion. Mr. Rinaldi agreed to obtain feedback from students by way of his Principal Advisory Group, Rise Above, and Drug Abuse Prevention Council. He will report his findings to the full Board.

Consideration of Policy #5131.9 - Electronic Devices

Mr. Rinaldi presented a video that he took of a class of students that had been given special permission to bring their own electronic devices to school to work on a research paper during class. The feedback from the students was overwhelmingly positive.

Our current policy does not allow students to bring, or use, any of their electronic devices during the school day. The Committee reviewed a proposed policy that would replace the existing policy. Committee members felt this was a good start but wanted more time to hash out the details of the policy. There was also concern about approving this policy without addressing Policies #6162.3 and #6163.3 - Use of Technology. These policies were last amended in 2001. It was agreed that the policies regarding electronic devices as well as acceptable use would all be addressed at the next policy meeting.

Review of Policies #6162.6 and #6163.3 - Use of Technology

It was agreed this discussion would be tabled until the next Policy Committee Meeting.

Review of Proposed Ellington Friend of Education Award

It was agreed that due to time constraints we will be unable to implement this award this school year, therefore it is no longer pressing so we will move this discussion to a Policy Committee Meeting this summer.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn at 9:19 p.m.

1st. Mr. Howard Friedman

2nd. Mr. Dale Roberson

VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by _____
Kris Picard-Wambolt, Policy Committee Chairperson