

Board of Education, Ellington CT Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

The Policy Committee of the Ellington Board of Education met on Tuesday, May 14, 2019 at 6:30 pm in the School Administration Building, 47 Main Street, Ellington, Connecticut.

Attendees: Dr. Scott Nicol, Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Kristy Laporte, Director of Special Services, Mr. Brian Hendrickson, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Ms. Michele Murray, Curriculum Supervisor, Mr. Mark Mahler, EHS English Teacher, and Mr. Paul Brenton, Superintendent Intern and Assistant Superintendent, Killingly Public Schools

Committee Members: Ms. Tracey Kiff-Judson, Ms. Kris Picard-Wambolt, Ms. Liz Nord (7:04)

Absent Committee Members: Dr. Jaime Foster, Mr. Michael Purcaro, Ms. Kerry Socha

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:31 pm by Ms. Picard-Wambolt.

Agenda Items:

1. Discussion on Policies 1312 – Regarding Citizen Complaints

These policies outline the process and procedures involved in filing a complaint or reporting a concern regarding the district, its policies, or its employees. The proposed revisions to current Policy 1312 cleans up the existing language. This policy was originally titled “Parent Concerns”, but since the revision added citizens as possible complainants, the Committee recommended amending the title to “Citizen Complaints”. Similarly, the proposed revision of Policy 1312.2 cleans up existing language. Proposed new Policy 1312.3 addresses anonymous complaints. Although it was suggested this policy is redundant, as the above mentioned policies detail face to face discussion or signed written forms as the process for filing a complaint or reporting a concern, Committee members felt an explicit policy addressing anonymous complaints is necessary. Dr. Nicol informed the Committee the proposed new policy was developed by language provided by CAFE and legal advice from the Board attorney. The proposed policy states an anonymous complaint will not be read or acted upon at any meeting of the Board. For any complaint to be considered by the Board, it is required to be filed in writing and signed by the complainant. Attending faculty shared their perspective. The Committee engaged in a very thorough and thoughtful discussion. It was determined that the possible unintended consequences that could result from investigating anonymous complaints in which bias, interest and intent of the complainant can not be assessed can be detrimental to the district. Board members are always encouraged to discuss any questions or concerns they have regarding the district with the Board Chair and/or the Superintendent.

A motion was made to recommend to the full Board acceptance of revised Policy 1312 – Citizen Concerns as amended, revised Policy 1312.2 – Complaints About Policies, and new Policy 1312.3 – Anonymous Complaints as presented.

VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

1st. L . Nord

2nd. T. Kiff-Judson

2. Discussion on Policy 2133 – Principal

Language was added to our current policy to allow for the hiring of Co-Principals. It was noted that all job descriptions, with the only exception being that of superintendent, are no longer contained within the policy manual.

A motion was made to recommend to the full Board acceptance of revised Policy 2133 – Principal as presented.

VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

1st. T. Kiff-Judson

2nd. L. Nord

3. Discussion on Policy 9325.21 – Consent Agenda

At the request of a Board member, with an eye toward making meetings of the Board more efficient this bylaw was revised. As the responsibility for personnel matters lies with the Superintendent, the Board will no longer vote on hirings, resignations, or retirements. Members of the administrative team hired by the superintendent will continue to be approved by the Board. The Superintendent will provide the Board with regular staff updates. Concerns such as transparency were raised and one Committee member expressed her desire to not recommend this proposed revision. After some discussion, this item was tabled until a future meeting of the Policy Committee.

4. Continued Discussion on Policy 5118 – Nonresident Attendance

Due to time constraints, this discussion was tabled until a future meeting of the Policy Committee.

Adjournment:

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

1st. T. Kiff-Judson

2nd. L. Nord

The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 pm by Ms. Picard-Wambolt.

Respectfully submitted by

Kris Picard-Wambolt, Policy Committee Chair