

**Board of Education, Ellington CT
Policy Committee Meeting Minutes**

The Policy Committee of the Ellington Board of Education met on Wednesday, January 8, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. in the School Administration Building, 47 Main Street, Ellington, Connecticut.

Attendees: Dr. Scott Nicol, Superintendent of Schools, Mr. John Guidry, Principal, Ellington High School
Committee Members: Ms. Liz Nord, Ms. Kerry Socha, Ms. Jennifer Dzen,
Ms. Kris Picard-Wambolt

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:31 p.m. by Ms. Picard-Wambolt.

Agenda Item:

1. Continued Discussion on Policy Implications Regarding Mobile Metal Detectors

This is the third consecutive meeting during which this proposed Policy 5145.123 – Use of Metal Detectors is discussed. This evening, Mr. Guidry, Principal of Ellington High School was in attendance to brief the committee on the reasons Ellington High School administration has requested permission to implement use of mobile, wand-style metal detectors as a tool to combat student vaping at Ellington High School. He explained when a vape detector, currently in use in the high school lavatories, alerts, all students present in that lavatory are subject to search for vaping devices, and their parents are notified. Students are asked to turn out their pockets and remove their shoes. At this point, often the searches are unsuccessful. Administration believes it is common practice for students to hide their vaping devices in their undergarments knowing administrators will not “pat them down” to locate the devices in these private areas. Use of a wand-style, mobile metal detector will locate these devices without a student being physically touched. If the wand alerts, the student will be asked to hand over the device. If they refuse, their parents will be notified of the alert and asked to assist in determining the cause of the alert. Mr. Guidry outlined administration’s punitive and therapeutic response to a student’s possession of vaping products. Mr. Guidry is confident use of mobile metal detectors will have a positive impact in decreasing vaping within Ellington High School. Mr. Guidry addressed all committee questions and concerns. The committee continued their discussion. Although some concerns remain with various committee members, it was determined it is best to support administration by granting their request to allow use of wand-style, mobile metal detectors.

A motion was made to recommend to the full Board acceptance of new Policy 5145.123 - Use of Metal Detectors as presented.

VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

1st. K. Socha

2nd. J. Dzen

Adjournment:

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

1st. J. Dzen

2nd. K. Socha

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m. by Ms. Picard-Wambolt.

Respectfully submitted by _____

Kris Picard-Wambolt, Policy Committee Chair