

Board of Education, Ellington, CT Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

The Policy Committee of the Ellington Board of Education met on Monday, December 5, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. in the School Administration Building, 47 Main Street, Ellington, CT.

Attendees: Dr. Scott Nicol, Superintendent
Committee Members: Ms. Ann Marie Hayes, Ms. Tracey Kiff-Judson, Ms. Jamie Foster,
Ms. Kris Picard-Wambolt
Absent Committee Member: Mr. Michael Purcaro

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:37 p.m. by Ms. Picard-Wambolt.

Agenda Items:

Continued Review of Policy 5145.14 – On Campus Recruitment

Continued Review of Policy 5145.15 – Directory Information

These policies have been revised to reflect a legislative change in the Every Student Succeeds Act which allows students 18 years of age or older the ability to personally “opt out”. Previously, this right was only given to any and all students’ parent or guardian. In regards to the committee’s concerns raised at the last policy committee meeting in reference to magnet school recruitment and access, Dr. Nicol informed the committee this was not a necessary part of the policy in terms of outlining the state statute. This will be included on the district website by posting the school handbooks. As a result the policy will be in compliance with the statute.

A motion was made to recommend to the full Board acceptance of Policy 5145.14 as presented.

1st. Ms. Kiff-Judson

2nd. Ms. Hayes

Vote: Unanimous. The motion passed.

A motion was made to recommend to the full Board acceptance of Policy 5145.15 as presented.

1st. Ms. Hayes

2nd. Ms. Foster

Vote: Unanimous. The motion passed.

Continued Review of Policy 5113 – Attendance/Excuses/Dismissals

Continued Review of Policy 5113.2 – Truancy

The change in these policies reflects a change in legislation that will go into effect in August of 2017. It removes the required mail notice regarding truancy. Currently it is required that mailed notice be sent that shall include a warning that two unexcused absences from school in one month or five unexcused absences in a school year may result in a complaint filed with Superior Court alleging the belief that the acts or omissions of the child are such that the child’s family is a family with service needs. This will no longer be required. Further, language was added to the Truancy policy reflecting the new legislative requirement that as of 8/15/18 the Board shall implement a truancy intervention model identified by the Connecticut State Department of Education for any school within the district that has a disproportionately high rate of truancy. In regards to the committee’s concerns raised at the last policy committee meeting in reference to whether or not the loss of credit penalty for chronic absenteeism and/or tardiness should be outlined within these policies, Dr. Nicol informed the committee this was not a necessary part of the policies. Loss of credit penalty for chronic absenteeism will be included on the district website by posting the school handbooks.

A motion was made to recommend to the full Board acceptance of Policy 5113 as presented.

1st. Ms. Foster

2nd. Ms. Kiff-Judson

Vote: Unanimous. The motion passed.

A motion was made to recommend to the full Board acceptance of Policy 5113.2 as presented.

1st. Ms. Foster

2nd. Ms. Hayes

Vote: Unanimous. The motion passed.

Update on Naloxone Use in School Setting

We do not currently have a policy in place that addresses the use of Naloxone in a school setting. Dr. Nicol did provide the committee with a CAFE sample policy, Policy 5141.213 – Administering Medication, Opioid Overdose Prevention (Emergency Administration of Naloxone) at this evening’s meeting, along with a packet of background information regarding Naloxone use in the school setting. Dr. Nicol informed the committee that Dr. Kristy LaPorte, Director of Special Services is currently working on this policy and will make recommendations for our district to this committee by February. Any questions the committee has regarding this topic can be submitted to Dr. LaPorte, through Dr. Nicol so Dr. LaPorte will have the opportunity to address all committee concerns. The consensus of the committee is that this is a necessary topic to discuss and a good policy to have, yet it raises many questions and concerns. Some of the concerns raised during committee discussion this evening include, staff training and associated cost, cost and shelf-life of Naloxone, any and all side effects of the medication, any and all liability for the district, prevalence (or lack thereof) of opioid use/abuse within the district, the ability (or lack thereof) of drug sniffing dogs to positively identify opioids, and whether or not it was time to revisit the possibility of a drug sniffing dog policy. Dr. Nicol, Dr. LaPorte, and Mr. Brian Greenleaf, Director of Finance and Operations, will work on the policy and the committee will revisit it at a future meeting to hear and review their recommendations.

The meeting ended at 6:34 p.m.

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