

EASTON, REDDING AND REGION 9 POLICY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
March 10, 2016
Central Office

PRESENT

Board members: Paul Coppinger, Mike D'Agostino, Jeff Parker, Sara Sobel
Administration: Tom McMorran, Jen Desmarais, Mary Burritt, Sharon Luciano
Public: None

T. McMorran called Meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None.

OPENING COMMENTS

- 1) T. McMorran began the meeting by reviewing where the Committee 'left off'.
- 2) M. D'Agostino mentioned Social Media/Networking – should have a framework of 'do's and don'ts' – feels it's been an ongoing discussion for two years or so now.
- 3) J. Parker mentioned Easton had to release a teacher in the past due to what was posted on Social Media.
- 4) T. McMorran advised there is policy language in place developed by the Audit Committee.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

A. 5141.3(e) Students – Health Assessments and Immunizations

- 1) Parents who don't want their child vaccinated currently send a note to the nurse – T. McMorran doesn't think this is the nurse's responsibility. They should use a Notary in Central Office or a Notary at the school. T. McMorran mentioned that the nurses also asked for this to be removed as it is not in their Union contract.
- 2) District's duty is to obtain either an Immunization Record or a Letter of Waiver.
- 3) P. Coppinger suggested editing the language in Paragraph (iv) of Section 5141.3(e) to reflect this.
- 4) J. Desmarais noted some schools currently place non-immunized children away from the more susceptible children to avoid a possible outbreak.

Action:

- a. Paragraph (iv) – line three, include the word 'or' before "*a Connecticut-licensed attorney*"
- b. Paragraph (iv) – line four, remove "*or a school nurse*"

Send to one more Policy Committee Meeting before first reading

B. 5141.3 Students – Health Assessments and Immunizations

- 1) (f) M. D'Agostino requested the addition of grade 7 – appears not to have had this before.
- 2) (f) S. Sobel advised this may be because of the grade 6/grade 7 level differences in schools.
- 3) (f) P. Coppinger noted Paragraph 2 should include both Grade 6 or Grade 7.
- 4) (g) T. McMorran advised that our schools are 'in compliance'.
- 5) (g) P. Coppinger questioned if this was legally mandated – Yes, per T. McMorran.
- 6) (g) J. Parker asked T. McMorran to question why they've separated Male/Female in paragraph 4 under 'Postural Screenings'.

Action:

- a. (f) Paragraph 2, line 9, after "*in grade 6*" – include "*or grade 7*" twice

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C. 6146 Graduation Requirements

- 1) T. McMorran noted this is a huge problem for other Districts as they must carry 25 credits – Most children in our District already meet or exceed this.
- 2) T. McMorran also noted that the Commissioner approves a list of courses for Foreign Language.
- 3) P. Coppinger questioned the Language Credits – if taken two years of language in middle does it then count towards high school foreign language?
- 4) T. McMorran mentioned that 8th grade honors courses are the same as 9th grade; currently, the eighth and ninth grade teachers are working together on Algebra I pilot courses now.
- 5) M. D'Agostino questioned how this would apply to 'home school' children.
- 6) T. McMorran - This item of the Policy should be brought to the attention of the Curriculum Committee.

Pending approval by Curriculum Committee

Action: none at this time

D. 6172.12(a) Instruction – Magnet Schools

- 1) M. D'Agostino questioned if we qualify as an Inter-District school.
- 2) J. Desmarais noted that anywhere that District children decide to go, they must let us know – This is more for District related purposes since they need to know for class size, headcount, etc.
- 3) T. McMorran noted that the Magnet Schools are based on a Lottery System however, paragraph four should be added to the Agenda list for next meeting.

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E. 4131(b) Personnel – Certified Staff Development

- 1) M. D'Agostino questioned language in paragraph 2 regarding Committee membership consisting of representation from both teacher's and administrator's unions.
- 2) T. McMorran advised it is good to have them involved to consult with.

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F. 4115(a) Personnel – Certified Evaluation and Support Program

- 1) T. McMorran noted paragraph 4, line 6 wording is similar situation to above – must have teacher representation when seeking to modify the plan.
- 2) No further changes required.

Send to one more Policy Committee Meeting before first reading

G. 5141.21(a) Administering Medication

- 1) T. McMorran mentioned this is a new mandate to consider – must run thru the Districts' Medical Advisor.
- 2) T. McMorran noted sections L-M are fine.
- 3) No further changes required.

Pending approval by both Medical Advisors.

H. 5113(a) – Attendance / Excuses / Dismissal

- 1) J. Desmarais noted we are already in compliance with this.
- 2) T. McMorran also noted that 10% of the students are absent 10% of the time – only a few exceed this.
- 3) J. Desmarais also noted that the schools must due diligence for DCF purposes as well. The parents have been ‘good partners’ in this as well.
- 4) S. Sobel feels that this is an issue at the elementary and middle school levels which needs to be addressed.
- 5) T. McMorran advised that the Districts chronic absenteeism was a little more than 10% last year. The school limit is at 15% - we’re not close to this.
- 6) J. Desmarais also mentioned that they run monthly reports and monitor them.
- 7) No further changes required.

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I. 6146.2(a) Instruction Statewide Proficiency/Mastery Examinations

- 1) T. McMorran noted SATs did not include Writing.
- 2) M. D’Agostino questioned if there was a grade 10 statewide test in Science.
- 3) T. McMorran advised this is aligned to under the CAPT tests.
- 4) M. D’Agostino questioned if a student can ‘opt out’ of the CAPT tests.
- 5) T. McMorran advised that the State says if the District does not meet 98% of CAPT and CMT, they will withhold funding.
- 6) M. D’Agostino questioned whether the District can say you must take the CAPT test.
- 7) T. McMorran – Parents can say they don’t want their child taking the Smarter Balance and CAPT assessments.
- 8) Last year many children refused the Smarter Balance assessment since they already passed the CAPT test.
- 9) M. D’Agostino felt most kids will take the SATs since they are free. If funding is an issue, they refuse to take the tests.
- 10) J. Desmarais mentioned that they advised the Students (not the Parents) that they are not required to take the SATs. Also noted that the new SATs match up better to the ACTs.

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COMMENT

T. McMorran advised that he would work with J. Desmarais, M. Burritt and S. Luciano to go through this one more time (for language changes, etc.) and come back with one more review with the Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

P. Coppinger motioned to adjourn the meeting. S. Sobel seconded the motion.
Meeting adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

Submitted by Sharon Luciano