

POLICY / COMMUNITY AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

SEPTEMBER 2, 2008

Oliver Administration Building

Present

Subcommittee: Diana Campbell, Karen Lynch and John Saviano

School Committee and Administration: Edward Mara, Jane Correia and Paul Morris

Public: Tara Thibaudeau

In the absence of the Chair, Marjorie McBride, Diana Campbell called the meeting to order at 6:11 PM.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: John Saviano motioned to approve the minutes to the August 4, 2008 meeting; Karen Lynch seconded; the motion passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

Procurement and Bidding Policies

Jane Correia revised the policy changes discussed at the last meeting to alleviate the fears of the Committee.

Comments:

- Diana Campbell: Perhaps large purchases go before the Budget**

Subcommittee, however sometimes this would be impractical.

- **Marjorie McBride (through Diana Campbell):** The Budget Subcommittee should be at least notified in the cases of C and F; does not want things to become encumbered or more difficult because of one issue.
- **Karen Lynch:** Simply notifying someone is useless, unless they have authority to change it.
- **Ed Mara:** Financially, the District is well guarded; if it works, don't fix it.
- **Jane Correia:** Does not agree with putting C and F before the Budget Subcommittee.

MOTION: John Saviano motioned to continue this discussion to the next meeting when the full Subcommittee could be present. Karen Lynch seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Peanut Allergy Law

RIDE has informed Districts of changes to the Peanut Allergy Law. Ed Mara said the District had developed a health care plan in accordance with all Federal and state mandates and he feels the staff has a clear understanding of the law. The new changes allow parents to request their child not be separated in any way should their allergy not be a health concern. Tara Thibaudeau suggested this be expressed in the student handbooks. Ed Mara, along with Dr. Parker, will create a sign-off form for parents. At the next meeting, this and

all relevant policies, including the new medically fragile student policy, will be reviewed for compliance.

MOTION: Karen Lynch motioned to ask Dr. Mara to review the policy and develop some type of sign-off form for parents. John Saviano seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Tara Thibaudeau asked if the Policy Subcommittee agendas could be made more accessible to parents. The clerk will email the agendas to all school secretaries asking them to post the agendas where parents can readily see them.

Entrance Age Policy JEB

Tara Thibaudeau asked the Committee to reconsider their recommendation to disallow testing of children born in September; she feels parents should have this right, RIDE supports this and many districts in the state allow it. Ed Mara explained that the Commissioner warned Superintendents they would have problems if they allow screening and he had two heated issues this year over it. Karen Lynch reported that after the last School Committee meeting she consulted Andrew Henneous who said he would recommend the District NOT screen September born children. John Saviano supports the Superintendent's recommendation. Diana Campbell

pointed out that it could potentially cost the District money for legal defense should a parent bring suit. Diana Campbell acknowledged and noted Tara's input.

Technology Reports

Paul Morris asked what, how and when he is expected to report on technology. Diana Campbell said he should continue to report monthly to the full Committee, his concerns should be brought to the Policy Subcommittee, and Committee concerns will be brought to him via the Subcommittee.

Next Meeting

October 6, 2008, 6:00 PM at Oliver

Adjournment

At 7:03 PM, John Saviano motioned to adjourn; Karen Lynch seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

/ca