

# **POLICY / COMMUNITY AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING**

**MARCH 30, 2009**

**Oliver Administration Building**

## **Present**

**Subcommittee: Diana Campbell, Chair, Denise Arsenault and John Bento**

**School Committee and Administration: Karen Lynch, Marjorie McBride, John Saviano, Edward Mara and Melinda Thies (7:25 PM)**

**Guests: Kickemuit Middle School Staff—Michael Carbone, Elizabeth Chagnon, Debra Marshall, Jennifer Saarinen, Cynthia Sadler, Lisa Scagos, and Donna Stouber**

**Diana Campbell called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.**

**Introductions of all present were made. Kickemuit staff attended for the purpose of Field Trip Policy discussion, so this agenda item will be addressed first.**

## **Field Trips (Policy II CA)**

**Michael Carbone said field trips are a means of expression by special groups and are connected to the curriculum; he explained that two teams loop for two years (1/3 of sixth and seventh grade students are on looping teams. Donna Stouber feels it is not realistic for all**

students to go to Nature's Classroom even though it is a valuable learning experience; and it is about being part of a community. Mr. Carbone agreed, Nature's Classroom is a team building experience. Cynthia Sadler said they strive for fairness to all students but it is very hard to organize for all students, it may be stifling if they can't do it, and provides community service learning. Jennifer Saarinen added that opportunities are important but experiences are unique and parents do act as chaperones; the Principal provides handouts on possible trips.

Michael Carbone mentioned the problems are with teacher schedules.

John Saviano asked whether they should be taking place at all. Michael Carbone said that everyone is included in principle. Karen Lynch commented that no one has said, "Don't go." John Saviano questions the 100% inclusion interpretation of the policy and asked if representatives from the school were included in discussion; affordability should always be a consideration. John also asked about the mechanics of looping teams and asked for confirmation that no one is denied placement on a looping team; he suggested offering experiences to entire grades rather than to teams. Karen Lynch said not to connect looping with Nature's Classroom and to make decisions based on academics; it is not right to deny everyone because some can't.

John Saviano said we should decide what to do based on interpretation of the policy. Diana Campbell said bullet #5 on the

policy is open to interpretation. Jen Saarinen then mentioned that every team does team building differently and in their own way; every student is offered the opportunity to participate in the team building. Diana Campbell interjected that it is about fairness. Denise Arsenault alluded to consistency across lines, however, she will work for all seventh graders and feels the policy should be based on equity. Jen Saarinen said her goal is to get everyone to go but they need someone to coordinate the project. John Saviano agreed that it takes time to coordinate trips and they should be for either all students or none. Diana feels all students should have the opportunity to go. Marjorie McBride suggested keeping the policy as it is but send it back to administration for a gradual growth to all.

Diana Campbell will meet with Dr. Mara on expectation.

The Middle School staff left the meeting at 7:27 PM.

Melinda Thies joined the meeting at 7:25 PM.

### **Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION:** Denise Arsenault motioned to approve the February 2, 2009 meeting minutes; John Bento seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Peanut / Food Allergy Policy (JHCH)**

In a prior discussion Bill O'Dell suggested the following change: P.4,

paragraph 4, change “principal/ school administrator shall work with the transportation administrator . . .” to “Director of Administration shall work with the transportation administrator . . .”

**MOTION:** Denise Arsenault motioned to change “principal/ school administrator” to “Director of Administration” in the first sentence of paragraph 4 on page 4 for the second reading of the full Committee. John Bento seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Bullying Policy (JGF) / Dating Violence**

The Committee discussed Karen Lynch’s concerns about the term “over a period of time” in the proposed change in item 3. Melinda Thies reported that Andrew Henneous was consulted and he recommended keeping that wording, it does not need to be specified, and it is needed if there is a lawsuit; Melinda also mentioned that it was crafted from another policy; and in response to Karen Lynch, explained that Middle School staff were part of the task force that looked at this. Karen Lynch said Sandra Smith had suggested the language be made more “kid friendly” because they use it with the students. After discussion it was decided the intent of the policy should be safe-guarded and the wording remain as is, and the Middle School can create a version to use with the student.

**MOTION:** Denise Arsenault motioned to move forward with a second reading by the full Committee with the language as it is. John Bento seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

## **Wellness Policy (JHCG)**

**Carol Toselli had recommended updates to our policy to comply with new State regulations which will be discussed at the next meeting.**

**MOTION: Denise Arsenault motioned to continue this policy discussion to the next meeting; John Bento seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 3 to 0.**

## **HIV / Sexuality Info and Universal Precautions**

**In September RIDE issued policy guidelines for HIV /Aids, hepatitis C prevention and sexuality education. Diana Campbell said this information had been reviewed by Ellen Estrella who said our current policy is very strict and she does not think it needs changing. Diana asked Melinda Thies to review the policy and consult with Ellen Estrella and Dr. Parker about it.**

## **Next Meeting**

**May 4, 2009, 6:00 PM at Oliver.**

**Denise Arsenault requested technology policy discussion.**

## **Adjournment**

**At 7:45 PM, John Bento motioned to adjourn; Denise Arsenault seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

**/ca**