

# **POLICY / COMMUNITY AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING**

**JULY 6, 2009**

**Oliver Administration Building**

## **Present**

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

**School Committee and Administration: William O'Dell, John Saviano, Edward Mara and Melinda Thies**

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

## **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

## **Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION: Denise Arsenault motioned to approve the minutes to the May 4, 2009 meeting; John Bento seconded; the motion passed by a vote of 3 to 0.**

**This Committee determined that the draft minutes to their meetings should be distributed when completed rather than waiting to be attached to the meeting agenda at which they will be approved.**

## **Wellness Policy (JHCG) (2nd Reading)**

**Diana Campbell first addressed Denise Arsenault's preference for the Chair of the Wellness Committee to be any employee of the District. It was discovered that current law requires the Chair to be "a member of the full School Committee" so it will remain as is. Gaps in the Wellness Committee membership will be filled to comply with the law.**

**Denise felt the Wellness Committee membership should include representatives of local/ statewide non-profit health organizations as mentioned in state law. All agreed.**

**Regarding Denise's suggestion to give mental health more of a presence in this policy, Attorney Henneous and Leslie Anderson had been consulted and Melinda Thies researched the policies of other districts, and the overwhelming recommendation was not to make more mention of the topic because of legal ramifications; Denise withdrew her concerns and suggested stress management might be more appropriate.**

**Denise Arsenault had concerns about putting her stamp of approval on this policy as written and re-wrote the policy to be more grammatically correct. Melinda Thies agreed that it is important to clearly present the intent of policies. All present discussed the edits proposed by Denise. Denise apologized for the timing of these edits but felt they needed to be done.**

**Bill O'Dell felt the 2nd reading should contain only the changes needed to comply with state law, adding the proposed changes to grammar confuse and complicate things; procedurally, the Subcommittee should be given more time to discuss.**

**John Bento liked the changes and suggested the second paragraph on page 1 be reformatted; he also questioned the swapping out of the term "measuring" for "monitoring" in the first line of the third paragraph under "Purpose and Goals." After discussion it was agreed that the term measuring is appropriate. On page 5 the last paragraph should be reformatted.**

**Diana Campbell questioned Denise's proposed changes to section 1.0 under Policy and felt #s 4, 5 and 6 should remain as is. On page 5, item 5 should stay "offer fitness or activity logs" rather than changed to "use" which creates a requirement. John Bento prefers "use" but suggested Ed and Melinda consult the PE staff on this.**

**Diana Campbell directed the 2nd reading of this policy be removed from the July 13 School Committee meeting agenda. The edits discussed tonight will be written out and the formatting and language of the policy be made more consistent (use "Health and Wellness" throughout); Ed and Melinda will consult with the PE staff and report back to this Subcommittee in August; the policy will be presented to the full Committee in August.**

**The Committee discussed meeting protocol/ expectations and the**

**process for changing policies.**

**Bill O'Dell questioned the commitment to staff wellness and consistency with "budgetary goals". Melinda also had concerns about an obligation to provide wellness for staff as well as students. Bill felt that if the law allows, the Subcommittee should protect itself and the District. Diana felt staff should be included in our wellness policy but not to have an obligation. Diana requested that Melinda review the wording, comparing it to requirements of the state, and make recommendations to address the Subcommittee's concerns while still complying with state mandates.**

### **Next Meeting**

**Tuesday, August 11, 2009, 6:00 PM at Oliver**

**There will be no Policy Subcommittee meeting in September as Diana will be away.**

### **Adjournment**

**MOTION: At 7:35 PM, Denise Arsenault motioned to adjourn; John Bento seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

**/ca**