

POLICY / COMMUNITY AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

MARCH 5, 2012

Oliver Administration Building

Present

Subcommittee: Denise Arsenault, Chair, Karen Lynch and Susan Rancourt

School Committee and Administration: Melinda Thies and Mary Almeida

Denise Arsenault called the meeting to order at 6:15 PM.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Karen Lynch motioned to approve the minutes to the February 6, 2012 meeting; Susan Rancourt seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

Search and Seizure

The amendments made by Mario Andrade and Andrew Henneous to the first reading of the draft to reflect the concerns of the School Committee about attempts to contact parents in all situations when the search of a student will be conducted were reviewed and deemed acceptable.

MOTION: Karen Lynch motioned to accept the amendments to the

draft revision of Policy JFG Student Interrogations, Search and Seizure and forward it to the full Committee for a second reading on March 26. Susan Rancourt seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

Tobacco, Alcohol and Other Drug (TAOD) Policy for Students (JFCH)
Melinda brought forward an old clerical error in the TAOD policy that came to light during a student hearing. Under Section “IV. Possession*, sale, solicitation, transfer, or attempted sale, transfer, solicitation of a Controlled Substance to another person”, the second offense should include the same A and B notations that are stated for a second offense in Section III, along with the existing “Second Offense (Transfer of Controlled Substance)*” notation.**

MOTION: Karen Lynch motioned to forward the recommendation for a correction to the full Committee for a first reading. Susan Rancourt seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

RI Educator Code of Professional Responsibility

Melinda presented a revision to the “R I Educator Code of Professional Responsibility” document (attached) that is tailored and personalized to the District. To keep the formatting of this policy consistent with others, which is to begin the policy with a statement of purpose, the last sentence of the first paragraph will become the first sentence. This is a new policy; Melinda will identify an

appropriate code.

MOTION: Karen Lynch motioned to forward the policy to the full Committee for a first reading. Susan Rancourt seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

Educator Evaluation System

Melinda reiterated the RIDE model will be utilized and is in place now for administrators and classroom teachers; next year support staff will be included; the Superintendent evaluates all principals and assistant principals. Denise asked that the language clearly indicate the Superintendent evaluates certified administrators who are not in the union. This policy will replace GCN (also AFC) Evaluation of Professional Staff (Administrators), GCN-1 (Also AFC-1) Evaluation of Professional Staff (Teachers), and GCN-E Teacher Evaluation Handbook. Still to be considered are safeguards, a process for observations, access to files, and an appeals process. All educators, including administrators, will be evaluated by the model. Discussion will continue at the next meeting. The length and frequency of observations will be a local decision; Karen suggested specifying a range—“a minimum of ___ to a maximum of ____.” It is incumbent upon the District to develop an evaluation subcommittee. Discussion will continue at the April meeting.

Superintendent's Evaluation

Melinda's evaluation was not as satisfying as it could have been. Denise researched superintendent evaluations from the Oregon Board of Education and RIASC. To move forward it is important to have the materials in hand and know what Melinda would like included. Melinda feels some of the issues are clearly stated in the RIASC document, it clarifies what the Superintendent's and School Committee's role is together; District goals and a timeline for those goals need to be developed; the School Committee may want to reflect on their goals for the District. Goals must have a moral and ethical balance and be centered around student learning; the Strategic Plan, Superintendent's goals and School Committee goals must be aligned.

The evaluation timeline should coincide with the availability of test scores; in 2014 NECAP will be replaced with PARCC which is done on a quarterly basis. Melinda expects the testing to be more streamlined with more information available immediately. Based on this, May could be the best month and the evaluation could be three-pronged—1) self, 2) School Committee, and 3) community input.

Weekly updates by Melinda to the School Committee and monthly reports by central administration help to keep goals in focus, but goals must be established. There needs to be a broad vision and then concrete evidence of progress on a specific number of things. Denise feels there should be a workshop with a facilitator. She would

like to see the evaluation calendar established to bring the Superintendent and School Committee together to discuss goals every two years because the make-up of the Committee changes every two years. School Committee goals should be established in June.

Melinda said final outcomes are in June; contracts roll over June 30; there will be two assessments by spring. The state is moving forward to umbrella all district personnel under the RI model but that will be some time in coming. The entire process will take several months to create; it should be tackled in pieces.

Susan suggested adding the RIASC Superintendent Evaluation Sample document to the materials provided to new School Committee members.

Next Meeting

April 2, 2012 at 5:30 PM

- **Educator Evaluation System – continue discussion**
- **Superintendent’s Evaluation – continue discussion**
- **Signage on School Buildings - new**
- **SRO Policy - new**

Adjournment

MOTION: At 7:35PM Karen Lynch motioned to adjourn; Susan Rancourt seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

/ca