

POLICY / COMMUNITY AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

MAY 7, 2012

Oliver Administration Building

Present

Subcommittee: Denise Arsenault, Chair, Karen Lynch and Susan Rancourt (6:48)

School Committee and Administration: Melinda Thies and Mario Andrade

Denise Arsenault called the meeting to order at 6:08 PM.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Karen Lynch motioned to approve the minutes to the April 2, 2012 meeting; Denise Arsenault seconded. Two edits are needed: Next meeting date should be May 7, and under “Educator Evaluation System,” line 3 should read “Educator refers to classroom teachers, support personnel and administrators.” The motion to approve as amended passed by a vote of 2 to 0.

School Resource Officer

When the position was established by statute it was grant funded; it is now funded by the Bristol Police Department and as such, Chief

Canario feels he should craft the expectations, otherwise, he would withdraw the funding. Melinda feels the roles of the deans and the SRO sometime become blurred with the deans relying on the SRO; the SRO is there for the students. The Chief sees the role as having broader latitude, to maintain safety in the school. Karen added that we all have to have the same understanding of what the SRO's responsibilities are.

Melinda feels the SRO being stationed in the deans' office contributes to the problem; we might begin with moving the office and having open conversation about the clear, definitive role of the SRO. Denise recommended Melinda meet with Don Rebello and Chief Canario to define the parameters of the position; we cannot tie his hands as an officer of the law. Melinda said the natural attributes of the particular person in the position are a large consideration. Karen said if admin is comfortable with the outcome, it does not need to come before the Committee; also, if the whole purpose of this person is to be someone the students can come to and trust, then every time he steps in as a police officer the students get a mixed message. Melinda believes this is the reason the current SRO is a good fit; she will meet with the Chief and high school administration.

Educator Evaluation System

Melinda shared a new draft of the policy; we are in gradual

implementation this year, with full implementation next year; the next version from RIDE rolls out in June; there has been a lot of feedback from professional organizations. Mario explained the personal references could be a phone call; they should be stated vaguely. Denise does not think policies need to be spelled out. Melinda feels it delivers the message, it is aligned with the RI model and there will be systems built in; a relationship always needs to be maintained.

MOTION: Karen Lynch motioned to forward this policy to the full Committee for a first reading. Denise Arsenault seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 2 to 0.

Superintendent's Evaluation

Susan Rancourt joined the meeting at 6:48 PM.

For the Superintendent's evaluation process to move forward the School Committee must first establish their goals. The group discussed possible dates and times and determined Saturday, June 16, from approximately 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM to be the least objectionable possibility. Denise, Karen, Susan and Melinda committed to this time. Denise will craft a message to the rest of the School Committee urging them to make the sacrifice and commit to this time.

Bullying Policy

RIDE has directed the adoption of the new statewide bullying policy by June 30, 2012. To adopt the RIDE policy, the District will have to create a new dating violence policy because it is not covered by the RIDE policy.

MOTION: Karen Lynch motioned to recommend to the full Committee the adoption of the new RIDE Statewide Bullying Policy, for a first reading on May 29, 2012. Susan Rancourt seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

Melinda and Mario will create a separate dating violence policy to be discussed at the June Policy Subcommittee meeting.

Tobacco, Alcohol and Other Drug (TAOD) Policy for Students (JFCH)
All agreed that selling and transfer are infractions of greater severity than possession and should be subject to different consequences. The Committee discussed using “may” in reference to counseling and community service. RIDE does not allow the mandating of community service; although most parents would not balk at counseling, mandating counseling would bind us to always providing a counselor. The Committee agreed to “Counseling services will be mandated and community service may be suggested” provided Andrew has no issue with this.

Melinda will meet with the high school staff to develop two layers of disciplinary action, consult with Andrews, then report back to this

Committee.

Compulsory Attendance Age

At this time there is no monitoring of this law by RIDE; all agreed to leave the policy as is for now, while being mindful of our obligation.

Next Meeting

June 4, 2012 at 6:00 PM

- Prohibition Against Harassment, Bullying and Dating Violence (Policy JGF)**
- Wellness Policy**

Adjournment

MOTION: At 7:32PM Karen Lynch motioned to adjourn; Susan Rancourt seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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