

POLICY / COMMUNITY AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, February 4, 2013

Oliver Administration Building

Present

Subcommittee: William O'Dell, Chair, Diana Campbell and Lynn Wainwright

**School Committee, Administration & Guests: Karen Lynch, (7:06 pm)
Susan Rancourt,(7:06 pm) Melinda Thies, Mario Andrade and
Christy Belisle, H.S. Athletic Director (7:06 pm)**

Meeting called to order by William O. at 6:35 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Diana C. motioned to approve the minutes of the January 7, 2013 meeting; Lynn W. seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Internal Hiring Policy for Athletic Coaches Presentation

Melinda T. stated that she and Christy B. are in the process of drafting an internal policy related to the hiring of athletic coaches utilizing the six points brought up by parents at a previous Policy Subcommittee Meeting. In its current form, they have addressed the first four points. The two points not covered at the moment are related to team selection process and playing time. Both of those

items are not related to hiring. Christy B. and Melinda T will work together to incorporate all six points within the internal policy.

Diana C. asked how an internal policy gets implemented. Melinda T. responded that it would be communicated through the athletic director and ultimately would like to see it in the handbook. Karen L. asked when the policy would take effect. Melinda T. responded she would like to begin the process of implementing soon as we don't want to have to wait until next year. Christy B. stated that she has met with Donna St. Angelo and they are working together on the best way to proceed with the hiring of coaches. Donna S. said it is easier to have a larger amount of postings all at once.

Christy B. said that at the middle school level, the children are in a developmental stage preparing them for high school. Her goal is to make sure coaches understand that what they are teaching is foundational both academically and physically and that they help the student strive for excellence. Susan R. said that the desire of the parents is to see a consistent policy from middle school to high school. Christy B. stated that they are working toward that. Diana C. also commented that it is important that students feel they are being evaluated fairly. She would also like to touch base with those parents who raised concerns about this issue to get their feedback on whether they see a positive difference once the internal policy has been implemented. All agreed to place the Coaches Internal Hiring Policy and follow-up with parents on the agenda for September 2013.

(Christy B. left at 7:06 pm)

(Karen L. left at 7:06 pm)

(Susan R. left at 7:06 pm)

Health and Wellness Policy (JHCG)

Lynn W. reported back to the subcommittee that Bristol Warren Regional School District was chosen to participate in RIDE's Health Initiative Collaborative. Lynn W. used the school assessment tool provided by the Health Initiative Collaborative which allows a district to evaluate themselves in five different areas. It then gives examples of what they are looking for in those areas as well as resources to help a school align with the state. Unfortunately, our current wellness policy did poorly in some areas, but Lynn is in contact with Erin, from the collaborative, to double check how she completed the assessment to be sure it is indeed accurate. Another suggestion she received through this process is that they would prefer not to see an appendix as part of the policy, but have those items placed within the policy so that it could ultimately be placed on the district website. Lynn W. reiterated that RIDE cannot force us to do anything that is not mandated by the state and that this is simply a resource to help school districts with their wellness policies. Lynn W. will not know until the end of the month what changes might need to be made to our policy so she suggested that we table this discussion until that time. Bill O. posed the question of what would be the proper way to proceed. A suggestion was made to involve the Wellness Committee

in working with the Health Initiative Collaborative in evaluating our policy and then to report back to the Policy subcommittee with their recommendations. Lynn W. suggested that it would be best to have just a couple of people from the Wellness Committee involved and that she would be willing to be the go-between throughout the process. Melinda T. did offer a word of caution based on our attorney's perspective and that is as we proceed with this assessment and their recommendations, we want a good policy that is easy to navigate and adheres to the law, but one that we can deliver as well. Lynn W. will report back to the subcommittee once recommendations and evaluation process is complete.

A general reminder was mentioned by Diana C. that any members of the subcommittee that have supporting documentation that would be helpful for preparation prior to future meetings and for use during, to supply them to the school committee secretary prior to the meeting so that she can post for the subcommittee members so that they have time to digest the information. Diana C. would also like the Policy Review Queue to be updated indicating that the Health and Wellness Policy is under review through RIDE's Health Initiative Collaborative and our Wellness Committee. She would also like to see the queue placed on our next agenda.

Cheating Policy Discussion

Lynn W. would like to see a cheating policy enacted in our district. Bill O. asked the following questions, how much evidence do we have

to show we need one, and are there tools in place now to deal with this? Bill O. also stated he believes this is an internal policy that should be in the handbook and not a school committee policy issue. A suggestion was made that this should go to the School Improvement Team (SIT) Committee. Melinda T. would like to have a conversation with administration about this in order to build consensus. She believes this should be addressed in the next couple of months so that it is able to be placed in the handbook.

BDD/BDDI

The wrong policy reference letters were indicated on the agenda; therefore, no discussion took place.

(Lynn W. left at 7:44 pm and returned at 7:45 pm.)

Adjournment

MOTION: At 7:54 pm Diana C. motioned to adjourn; Lynn W. seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

/kd