

# **POLICY AND CURRICULUM SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING**

**Wednesday, March 5, 2014**

**Oliver Administration Building**

## **Present**

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

**School Committee, Administration & Guests: Melinda Thies, Mario Andrade, and Ted Hayes, Editor, Warren Times Gazette**

**Meeting called to order by Bill O. at 6:32 p.m.**

## **Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION: Diana C. motioned to approve the minutes of the January 6, 2014 meeting; Lynn W. seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

## **Proposed Changes to Handbook – Prom Preparation**

**On March 18th, the high school students will present to the SIT Team their proposal for changes to the handbook regarding prom day early dismissal.**

**The Subcommittee feels it would not be prudent to consider the proposal until the high school administration and SIT Team have reviewed the proposed changes to the handbook. As a result, this discussion will be tabled until the next Policy Subcommittee Meeting in April.**

## **Graduation Requirements Policies**

### **Graduation Requirements Policy (IKF)**

**Melinda T. distributed copies of the proposed changes to the Graduation Requirements Policy (IKF) which will bring the policy into compliance with the Rhode Island Board of Education Graduation Requirements for performance on the Rhode Island State Assessment.**

**Cross references will be added to the bottom of the Graduation Requirements Policy (IKF) to include the RI High School Diploma System Policy (IKF-R) and the BWRSD Policy for Waiver of the State Assessment Graduation Requirement (IKF-E).**

**MOTION: Diana C. made a motion to move the Graduation Requirements Policy (IKF) as amended to the full School Committee for a first reading; seconded by Lynn Wainwright.**

**DISCUSSION: Bill O. explained why he opposes the amended changes.**

**The motion passed with a 2-1 vote; Bill O. dissenting.**

### **The RI High School Diploma System Policy (IKF-R)**

**After reviewing the RI High School Diploma System Policy (IKF-R), a**

**consensus was reached by the Subcommittee that the policy should be updated to reflect current practices and procedures of Mt. Hope High School.**

**Mario A. will revise the Rhode Island High School Diploma System Policy (IKF-R) and present those changes at the next Policy Subcommittee meeting in April.**

### **BWRSD Policy for Waiver of the State Assessment Graduation Requirement**

**The Subcommittee and Administrators discussed several items contained within the draft copy of the BWRSD Policy for Waiver of the State Assessment Graduation Requirement. A determination was made that this policy will serve as an internal policy which will be an “exhibit” included with the Graduation Requirements Policy (IKF). The Waiver of the State Assessment Graduation Requirements Policy (IKF-E) will be presented along with Policy IKF when Policy IKF goes for a first reading at the March business meeting.**

### **Text Book Policies**

#### **Textbook Selection and Adoption Policy (IIAA)**

#### **Recommendation for New Textbook Adoption Policy (IIAA-E)**

**The Textbook Selection Policy’s original intent was to ensure checks and balances were in place to enable the School Committee to approve textbook selection. With the current advances in technology, Bill O. stated that the Textbook Selection Policy as**

written is confusing and does not include language to provide the School Committee a means to approve electronic books and electronic updates.

Bill O. asked Mario A. to define the word “textbook”. Mario A. responded that a “textbook” is a comprehensive paper or electronic resource from a single vendor that supports curriculum. Mario A. believes these comprehensive paper or electronic resources should be presented to the School Committee for review. Supplementary curriculum obtained from various vendors would be considered individual resources and would not necessarily be required to go before the School Committee. Changes and updates to electronic books and resources are usually related to relevancy and current events. Mario A. emphasized the importance of ensuring the same curriculum standards are being met with those updates.

The Subcommittee charged Mario A. with revising the Textbook Selection and Adoption Policy (IIAA). He will present those changes to the Policy Subcommittee at the next meeting.

#### **Supplementary/Library Materials Policies**

**Supplementary/Library materials Selection & Adoption Policy (IIAB/IIAC)**

**Library Selection Policy (IIAC)**

**The School Library Bill of Rights for School Library Media Programs Policy (IIAC – Appendix A)**

**A consensus was reached by the Subcommittee that no changes are necessary to the Supplementary/Library Materials Policies.**

### **Policy Review List**

**Updates to the Policy Review List were discussed.**

### **Future Agenda Items**

- **Proposed Changes to the Student Handbook – Prom Preparation**
- **Revised RI High School Diploma System Policy (IKF-R)**
- **Revised Textbook Adoption Policy (IIAA)**
- **Policy Review List**

**Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 15, 2014, at 6:30 p.m.**

### **Adjournment**

**MOTION: At 7:57 pm Diana C. motioned to adjourn; Lynn W. seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

**/kd**