

POLICY AND CURRICULUM SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, April 15, 2014

Oliver Administration Building

Present

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

School Committee, Administration & Guests: John Saviano, Mario Andrade, Greg Burke, Morgan Chaves, Augusta Costa, Laura Manchester, Jodi-Lee Neves, Russ Noble, and Burke O'Brien

Meeting called to order by Bill O. at 6:41 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Diana C. motioned to approve the minutes of the March 5, 2014 meeting; Lynn W. seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Proposed Changes to Handbook – Prom Preparation

Morgan C. shared that she presented the proposed change to the handbook regarding prom day early dismissal to the School Improvement Team. The School Improvement Team recommended instituting the Prom Early Dismissal Policy as a pilot for the final months of academic year 2013-2014. Morgan C. and Burke O. explained the rationale of the eligibility requirements for prom day early dismissal delineating between this years Prom Pilot Policy, and

the proposed Prom Early Dismissal Policy to be implemented beginning in the 2014-2015 academic year beginning in September 2014. Morgan C. believes this policy will serve as an excellent incentive for students in reducing unexcused tardiness.

In regards to the proposed Prom Pilot Policy, the following change will be made: “Any student with three or more 2 or more unexcused tardies between April 17, 2014 and May 16, 2014 would be ineligible for this option.”

A consensus was reached to make the eligibility requirements of the proposed Prom Early Dismissal Policy tougher to reflect academic rigor. A tentative endorsement for implementing the Prom Early Dismissal Policy, beginning in academic year 2014-2015, was given by the Policy & Curriculum Subcommittee pending data from the Prom Pilot Policy.

MOTION: Mrs. Campbell made a motion to move the Prom Pilot Policy for a vote before the full School Committee on April 28, 2014, which policy allows students to be dismissed after 4th lunch of the academic day of the prom at 12:45 p.m. providing students have received parental consent and are in good disciplinary standing with the Dean’s office, having no more than two unexcused tardies between April 17, 2014 and May 16, 2014, the day of the Junior Prom; seconded by Mrs. Wainwright. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Bill O. stated, for the record, that this item was being removed from the agenda for discussion at this time.

Text Book Policies

Textbook Selection and Adoption Policy (IIAA)

A consensus was reached by the Subcommittee to make the following changes to the Textbook Selection and Adoption Policy:

“The Committee agrees recommends that the administration and teaching staff shall review all textbooks with a copyright date of five years or older.”

MOTION: Mrs. Campbell made a motion to move the Textbook Selection and Adoption Policy (IIAA), as amended, to the full School Committee for a first reading; seconded by Mrs. Wainwright. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION: Recommendation for New Textbook Adoption

- Realidades, Levels 1-3**
- World History: The Modern Era**
- United States History**

Augusta Costa, Laura Manchester and Jodi-Lee Neves shared their rationale for recommending the Realidades Spanish textbook, Levels 1-3, for adoption by the School Department. Jodi N. stated that the Realidades textbook aligns with AP standards and the Common Core.

The Subcommittee is pleased with the embedded rigor within the Realidades Spanish textbook.

Mario A. stated that there are currently 270 students signed up for Spanish across all three levels for academic year 2014-2015. Mr. O'Dell requested that the Director of Finance be contacted to calculate the total cost for purchasing the Realidades Spanish textbooks for levels 1-3.

MOTION: Mrs. Campbell made a motion to move approval for the adoption of the Realidades Spanish Textbook to the full School Committee in May; seconded by Lynn W. The motion passed unanimously.

Greg Burke shared the rationale for recommending the adoption of World History: The Modern Era and United States History textbooks by the School Department. He stated that the textbooks are aligned to AP and Common Core and will help facilitate PARCC testing.

MOTION: Mrs. Campbell made a motion to move approval for the adoption of World History: The Modern Era and United States History textbooks to the full School Committee in May; seconded by Lynn W. The motion passed unanimously.

Visitors to the School Policy (KK)

The Visitors to the School Policy was reviewed by the Subcommittee with a consensus for the following changes:

- **“Visitors must sign-in to the building at the reception area noting the time/destination/reason for their visit, and wait for verification.”**
- **“All visitors must sign-out and surrender their badge upon exiting the building.”**

The Subcommittee agreed that the Visitors to the School Policy text should be more generic citing that the configuration of the buildings within the District are not aligned. All building principals will be contacted regarding the proposed updates to the Visitors to the School Policy to confirm their ability to comply with the proposed changes.

The Visitors to the School Policy will be placed on May’s Policy & Curriculum Subcommittee agenda.

Policy Review List

Updates to the Policy Review List were discussed.

Future Agenda Items

- **Revised RI High School Diploma System Policy (IKF-R)**
- **Visitors to the Schools Policy (KK)**
- **Policy Review List**

Next meeting will be held on Monday, May 5, 2014, at 6:30 p.m.

Adjournment

MOTION: At 8:15 pm Diana C. motioned to adjourn; Lynn W. seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

/kd