

POLICY AND CURRICULUM SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, March 2, 2015

Oliver Administration Building

Present

Subcommittee: Erin Schofield, Chair; John Saviano and Lynn Wainwright

School Committee, Administration & Guests: John Bento, Diana Campbell, Karen Lynch, Bill O'Dell, Paul Silva, Mario Andrade and Diane Sanna

Meeting called to order by Erin S. at 6:11 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: John S. motioned to approve the minutes of the January 5, 2015 meeting; Lynn W. seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Student Discipline Subcommittee

Subcommittees of the School Committee Policy (BCE-R)

Paul S. shared that the Department of Education requires all Student Discipline Hearings be heard within 10 school days from when the charges are initially made against the student. If the hearing does not occur within the 10 day timeframe, the student automatically wins the appeal. Because of the short timeframe, obtaining a quorum of

School Committee members to attend a Student Discipline Hearing is difficult. The District's Solicitor suggested creating a Student Discipline Subcommittee to avoid the issues of obtaining a quorum. Although a formal Student Discipline Subcommittee had not been created in the past, a Chair had always been assigned to Student Discipline Hearings. The Student Discipline Hearing Chair was responsible for ensuring that two additional School Committee members were in attendance with the Chair at a Student Discipline Hearing.

Paul S. stated that the Subcommittee of the School Committee Policy (BCE-R) should be updated to reflect the addition of a Student Discipline Subcommittee for the reasons outlined above.

The Policy & Curriculum Subcommittee reviewed the proposed changes and made minor edits.

MOTION: John S. made a motion to move the Subcommittees of the School Committee Policy (BCE-R) with the recommended changes to the full School Committee for a first reading; seconded by Lynn W. The motion passed unanimously.

PARCC ASSESSMENT PROPOSED POLICY

Mario A. stated that the Comprehensive Assessment System Policy covers ALL assessments, not just one specific test. He further

stated that it is important to have broad language in such a policy to avoid the need for revisions to the policy when the State's testing requirements change. The Comprehensive Assessment System Policy does cover the PARCC Assessment.

Mario A. commented that the Comprehensive Assessment System Policy adheres to all RIDE testing requirements. The Comprehensive Assessment System Policy simply states that all Bristol Warren Regional students are required to participate in state assessments.

Mario A. expanded upon the purpose of student assessments and the benefits to students.

Bill O. believes that instead of mandating student assessments, the District should communicate why assessments are needed.

Lynn W. responded that a PARCC forum is being held for parents on Wednesday, March 4th.

(Paul left at 6:58 p.m.)

A discussion ensued regarding both perspectives of the PARCC Assessment "debate".

(Diana C. left the meeting at 7:30 p.m.)

(Karen L. left the meeting at 7:30 p.m.)

The Subcommittee reviewed the proposed Comprehensive Assessment System Policy and made revisions.

Mario A. commented that he will have Andrew H. verify the document's legal references.

Mario A. stated that he is doing everything in his power to make sure students are not negatively impacted whether they opt out or take the test.

(John B. left the meeting at 8:11 p.m.)

MOTION: John S. made a motion to move the Comprehensive Assessment System Policy with the recommended subcommittee revisions, after legal review, to the full School Committee for a first reading; Lynn W. seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

POLICY REVIEW LIST

A concern was raised whether the general public would know that PARCC assessment is going to be discussed at the March business meeting of the School Committee if the Comprehensive Assessment System Policy is listed on the agenda. Mario A. suggested that during the March Workshop, Erin S. make a disclaimer alerting the general public that the first reading of the Comprehensive

Assessment System Policy, which covers the PARCC assessment, will be conducted at the March business meeting.

MOTION: Lynn W. made a motion to accept the Policy Review List as reviewed; seconded by John S. The motion passed unanimously.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- **Junior Prom Early Dismissal Procedure**
- **National Honor Society Proposed Policy**
- **Bring Your Own Device (grades 6-12) Proposed Policy**

The next meeting will be held on Monday, April 6, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Lynn W. made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 p.m.; seconded by John S. The motion passed unanimously.

/kd