

## **POLICY AND CURRICULUM SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING**

**Monday, September 12, 2016**

**Mt. Hope High School - Cafeteria**

### **PRESENT**

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

**School Committee, Administration & Guests: Mario Andrade, Superintendent; Diane Sanna, Assistant Superintendent; Karen Lynch (arrived at 6:45 p.m.), Marjorie McBride and Paul Silva (arrived at 6:45 p.m.)**

**Erin S. called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.**

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION: John S. motioned to approve the minutes of the August 1, 2016 meeting; seconded by Lynn W.**

**The motion passed unanimously.**

### **TRANSGENDER POLICY**

**Lynn W. requested an update regarding a speaker from the LGBTQ community addressing the Policy & Curriculum Subcommittee. Erin S. responded that she is hoping to schedule a speaker to answer**

**questions at a future meeting.**

**Erin S. mentioned that the National School Boards Association (NSBA) has published a paper containing frequently asked questions regarding transgender policies. Erin S. stated that the current Transgender Policy draft before the Policy Subcommittee covers most of what is contained within the NSBA document.**

**Marj M. raised a concern regarding the paragraph addressing bullying contained within the Transgender Policy draft and the lack of equity regarding bullying in other School Committee policies related to students. Marj M. believes that all students should have the same consideration throughout student related School Committee policies.**

**Erin S. responded that the Policy & Curriculum Subcommittee is in the process of reviewing old policies and that the issue raised by Marj M. will be addressed at that time.**

**Marj M. clarified that as long as all student policies include the bullying disclaimer she does not have a problem with it.**

**Mario A. clarified that the intent of the Transgender Policy isn't about "student's rights", but about the school's responsibility to the transitioning student. The policy is about defining terms that will be beneficial in providing Professional Development for teachers.**

**A lengthy discussion ensued regarding “Protocols for students who identify as transitioning, transgender and gender non-conforming” contained within the Transgender Policy Draft.**

**A discussion ensued on the means by which the Transgender Policy will be disseminated to the teachers and staff.**

**Lynn W. suggested that research be done regarding whether there are any high schools who have set up gender specific bathrooms.**

**A short discussion ensued.**

**MOTION: Lynn W. made a motion to move the Transgender Policy draft to the next Policy & Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting. John S. seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

#### **AGENDA-MEETING FORMAT POLICY (BDDDB)**

**Marj M. shared a recap of the School Committee’s request for changes to the Agenda-Meeting Format Policy (BDDDB) voted upon at the last business meeting of the School Committee to be made by the Policy & Curriculum Subcommittee prior to the second reading.**

**(Karen L. & Paul S. arrived at 6:45 p.m.)**

**Erin S. raised a concern about the current policy title, “Agenda - Meeting Format” since the suggested meeting format content of the**

**policy has been requested to be removed.**

**Paul S. stated that the new policy name could simply state “Agenda Policy” to reflect the changes requested by the School Committee to remove the content containing the sample agenda. He added that if it was the pleasure of the Policy & Curriculum Subcommittee, they could include the sample agenda as an exhibit to the “Agenda Policy”. Paul S. explained that including the meeting format sample as an exhibit doesn’t carry with it the legal formality and constraint that it originally had when the specifics were listed within the Agenda-Meeting Format Policy. He added that School Committee approval is not necessary for exhibits to policies.**

**A discussion ensued on how the proposed Meeting Format Exhibit would function.**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION: John S. made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:54 p.m.; seconded by Lynn W.**

**The motion passed unanimously.**

**/kd**