

Suffield Board of Education
Policy Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
March 31, 2016 – 7:00 a.m.
Central Office Conference Room

Attendees: Natalie Semyanko, Matt Service, Jeanne Gee, Kendra Wiesel, Lori D'Ostuni, and Karen Berasi

- I. Call to Order: 7:01 a.m.
- II. Policies for Review and Discussion:

Policy and Regulation 5145.5 – Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Students)

The members reviewed the attorney's changes and recommended placing both the policy and regulation on the next board meeting agenda for first read. When reviewing the policy for Conduct on School Property, the subcommittee made minor changes to the list of groups in the policy and regulation to reflect the same groups in both policies

Policy 1316 – Conduct on School Property

This is a sample policy sent from CABA to support administrators and faculty/staff in situations that may occur on school grounds or at school events. The group made changes, both additions and deletions. Additionally, there is no regulation with this policy so reporting incidents was clarified. The subcommittee recommended sending this policy to first read at the next board meeting.

Bylaw 9325.2 – Order of Business

The group reversed Discussion Items and Action Items on the agenda as separate to be combined again to Discussion/Action Items. Separating the two was creating an unnatural flow at the meetings due to the break in voting on motions much later than when they were discussed. In addition, Communications was taken out from the Subcommittee Reports section, with a line added to reflect the current practice of pertinent communications stated during the Reports to the Board section. The subcommittee recommended sending the policy to the next board meeting for first read.

Discussion of Administrative Changes

This item pertains to the organization chart denoted in Policy 2120 Organization Chart. Karen Berasi noted the chart was currently inaccurate and will be brought to the board to reflect the current structure. Lori D'Ostuni clarified for the subcommittee the policy was written so the chart is brought to the board when there is a change (or annually) but the policy does not need to be reviewed.

Board Bylaws Review – Series 9000

Lori D'Ostuni noted the review would not start until the next policy meeting.

- III. Upcoming Policies

There was no discussion necessary on upcoming policies at this meeting.

IV. Policy Review – Process/Timeline

Karen Berasi explained different policy revision processes. The group decided to have Superintendent Berasi work with appropriate personnel and stakeholders on researching and recommending changes/drafts for all policy series except 9000 (the board bylaws) to the policy subcommittee. Lori D'Ostuni will research and recommend changes/drafts for the 9000 board bylaws section to the policy subcommittee. The discussion also included the magnitude of policies. Only one district was known to have a different policy system than the one Suffield uses. Karen Berasi will research the benefits and/or concerns of that district's system to see if we can move to a more user-friendly policy system.

V. Adjournment: 7:59 a.m.