

MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Sue Cohen (co-chair), Mr. Tom Hurley (co-chair), Mr. Christopher Browe, Ms. Diane Crocco and Ms. Rita Gedansky.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Ms. Sheila McCreven.

Staff members present: Mr. Charles Dumais, Dr. Charles Britton, Ms. Jill LaPlante and Jason Woods.

Also present: Mrs. Ruth Natzel

A meeting of the Policy Committee of the Amity Regional Board of Education (BOE) was held on Thursday, October 30, 2014 at 5:15 pm in the Superintendent's conference room at the District Offices.

1. **Call to Order:** Co-Chair Ms. Cohen called the meeting to order at 5:25 pm.

2. **Review of recent required policy updates**

Mr. Dumais explained the original policies 5123.2 Summer School Work for Credit and 6146.1 Instruction – Grading/Assessment Systems (attached). Dr. Britton spoke about additional course work such as physical education, special education and other courses that are now to be included in the student's grade point average (GPA) which is the nonweighted grade. Quality Point Average (QPA) is the non-weighted grade.

Discussion was held regarding weighting of grades for honors courses versus level 2 courses. The question was raised about transitioning to the new policy with inclusion of new courses in the GPA for students who are already under the old policy. Some of the reason for this change is being driven by change in technology from IPass to PowerSchool; PowerSchool cannot calculate the 20-point QPA. There was a lengthy discussion regarding weighted/unweighted grades, college admissions and how students are ranked or not ranked.

Motion was made by Mr. Hurley, seconded by Ms. Gedansky that Policy 6146.1 Instruction – Grading/Assessment Systems, be brought to the full Board of Education at the next meeting for a first reading with the changes that the policy be effective as of the class of 2019 and that a third column be added to the graph that will give "range".

Votes in favor 4 (abstention Mr. Browe)

Motion carried

Discussion of Policy 5123.2, Students/Summer School Work for Credit. The current policy is from December 2006 and needs revision. There was discussion regarding how credit is shown for any course that is taken by a student outside of Amity Schools. An explanation was given by Mr. Dumais regarding the connection between classroom learning and life-learning. There was discussion regarding the summer classes and whether or not they are leveled. The Committee feels that this policy needs to be sent back to the Administration for review and revision. Mr. Dumais and the administrators will do this and present the revised policy at a future Committee meeting.

Discussion of Policy 5131.911 – Students/ Bullying and Teen Dating Violence/Safe School Climate Plan. There is some concern about possibly overlap with this policy and another on bullying by itself as well as one on hazing. There was discussion about text quoted directly from the State of Connecticut legislation regarding teen dating violence and whether or not grammatical corrections would make this policy noncompliant. Mr. Dumais stated that much of what is in the legislation has been incorporated into the health curriculum. The legislation also includes the appropriate reporting standards and forms.

Motion was made by Mr. Hurley, seconded by Ms. Crocco, that Policy 5131.911 be brought to the full Board of Education at the next meeting..

Vote unanimous

Motion carried.

Discussion of policy 5131 – Student Discipline. The Committee discussed the various parts of this policy including 5131.911. Mr. Dumais explained that the definitions of suspension and expulsion need to be updated and that he needs time to go through the two policies – the current Amity policy versus the CAFE policy – to see how they match up and also to compare them to the legislation. He will bring this back to the Committee when it is ready.

Mr. Browe handed out a report from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) to Committee members regarding new data on high school students and substance abuse for the Committee's information.

The Policies for consideration at the next meeting are 0512 (January 24, 2014) and 4118.231 (November 15, 2013).

Motion was made by Mr. Browe seconded by Ms. Crocco that Mr. Dumais investigate the cost of having current policy documents that are PDF files converted to documents that are editable, such as OCR, as well as investigating the cost of getting a complete policy revision done by CAFE.

Vote unanimous

Motion carried

The next Policy Committee meeting will begin at 5:15 pm on December 18, 2014.

3. Adjournment

Motion made by Mr. Hurley, seconded by Ms. Crocco to adjourn, at 7:20 p.m.

Vote unanimous

Motion carried

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth E. Natzel, Recording Clerk