

MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Sue Cohen (co-chair), Ms. Diane Crocco, Ms. Sheila McCreven and Mr. William Blake (ex officio),

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. Christopher Browe and Ms. Rita Gedansky, and Mr. Tom Hurley (co-chair).

Staff members present: Dr. Charles Dumais, Dr. Charles Britton and Mr. Frank Barretta (math department chairman)

Also present: Mrs. Ruth Natzel and Mr. Tom Handler (from Woodbridge).

A meeting of the Policy Committee of the Amity Regional Board of Education (BOE) was held on Tuesday, February 24, 2014 at 5:30 pm in the Presentation Room at the Amity District Offices.

1. Call to Order: Chairman Ms. Cohen called the meeting to order at 5:40 pm.

Since a quorum was not yet present, Ms. Cohen asked that the Committee move to item 3.

3. Discussion and possible action on bylaw 9325.

Dr. Dumais gave some background information on Board of Education bylaw 9325 and he explained the changes in the attached document, indicated by black-lined text and new text.

Discussion was held regarding the changes made and other changes that might be necessary, particularly regarding line 5. Since there was no quorum at this point, Dr. Dumais will draft a bylaw for presentation at the next policy meeting based on the discussion that took place.

The Committee members in attendance asked Dr. Dumais, Dr. Britton and Mr. Barretta to proceed with their prepared presentation even though no quorum was present.

2. Continued discussion of Amity Board of Education policy 6146.1

Dr. Britton began the presentation of the most recent proposal for the change in policy 6146.1 (a). Mr. Barretta explained the comparison tables that he and Dr. Britton created that include the old 20-point scale and the proposed new scale.

Lengthy discussion took place regarding the challenge of going from the current policy to the new one with minimum impact on the students. Questions were asked regarding the process of calculating the grades for the classes of 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018. Mr. Handler was invited to speak and he made a few observations and asked a few questions.

Discussion continued regarding GPA, weighted GPA, QPA and the current policy versus the now- several new proposals, when the change should be made, and the timeline constraint that the administration is currently under to produce these grades.

Ms. McCreven left the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Further discussion ensued between all those present. Dr. Dumais stated that GPA and QPA are not related in our current system. Mr. Blake asked what the consequences would be if the Board did not pass the policy at the next meeting. Dr. Britton answered that current policy would be followed until a new one is passed, but that the new policy would need to be in place by June 2015. Dr. Dumais, Dr. Britton and Mr. Barretta agree that the figures presented this evening are as close to a linear progression as can be attained.

The Committee members present suggested that Dr. Dumais and Dr. Britton develop the following option for the full Board:

Make the change to a GPA running from 4.3 to .7 (from A+ to D-),with either a .3 or .4 difference between each grade and keep the value-add for weighted GPA for 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018, with a true linear calculation to be in place for 2019 and that the change be implemented immediately .

Meeting was closed by Ms. Cohen at 7:40 p.m..

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth E. Natzel, Recording Clerk