

MINUTES

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ms. Sue Cohen, Mr. Tom Hurley, Ms. Sheila McCreven and Ms. Diane Urbano.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:** Mr. John Belfonti.

**Staff members present:** Dr. Charles Dumais

**Also present:** Mrs. Ruth Natzel

A meeting of the Policy Committee of the Amity Regional Board of Education (BOE) was held on November 16, 2015 at 5:30 pm in the Superintendent's Conference Room at the Amity District Offices.

**1. Call to Order:** Chairman Hurley called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

**2. Public Comment:** None

**3. Discussion and possible action on the following policies (enclosure):**

Mr. Hurley asked Dr. Dumais to present the policies and their changes.

Dr. Dumais stated that all medical policies need to be reviewed. Dr. Germaine (school medical supervisor) and Ms Luth (school nursing supervisor) are reviewing all these policies. The policies presented tonight have been reviewed and updated based on the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) models and modified for Amity High School and both District middle schools.

**A. 5141 – Student Health Services**

Dr. Dumais highlighted the change in this policy 5141(a) "regular health assessments – only a licensed medial professional may do an assessment.

Regarding 5141(b) – There was discussion regarding the requirements (#1 thru #5) for the physical examination and whether a cut-off date for submitting the paperwork for a physical examination should be in the policy, because "a child will not be allowed, as the case may be, to begin or continue in district schools unless health assessments are performed as required." It was decided that no cut-off date should be inserted. "Immunizations/vaccination" listed as #8 will be moved to the end of the list to become #11.

Regarding 5141(e) "Schools shall maintain files of emergency information cards (on paper or electronically) for each student." Mr. Hurley expressed concern regarding the safeguarding of information stored electronically. Dr. Dumais stated that he will check policy on the security of information and move that policy up in the queue to be reviewed at the next Committee meeting.

Dr. Dumais will ask Dr. Germaine and Ms. Luth to review the paragraph regarding immediate medical attention for clarity in the wording.

***Motion by Ms. Cohen to bring Policy 5141 to the full Board for a first read at the December meeting.***

**Vote unanimous**

**Motion carried**

**B. 5141.21 – Administering Medications**

Dr. Dumais highlighted the changes to this policy, 5141.21(f) "who is authorized to self-administer..."

Mr. Hurley asked about the purchase of Epipenes. Dr. Dumais answered that these would be prescribed by the medical director to each school and be purchased.

Dr. Dumais reviewed the 8 forms included with this policy with the Committee.

Mr. Hurley noted that a page should be inserted for form #5 (which was not included in the enclosure for tonight's meeting) for the Board packet.

***Motion by Ms. Urbano to bring Policy 5141.21 to the full Board for a first read at the December meeting.***

**Vote unanimous**

**Motion carried**

**C. 5141.22 – Communicable Diseases**

Dr. Dumais stated that this policy has had no change. Ms. McCreven asked if head lice was included in this policy as a communicable disease; Dr. Dumais will ask Ms. Luth about this.

***Motion by Ms. Cohen to bring Policy 5141.22 to the full Board for a first read at the December meeting.***

**Vote unanimous**

**Motion carried**

**D. 5141.231 – Psychotropic Drug Use**

Dr. Dumais went over the changes in this policy with the Committee. Mr. Hurley questioned whether the title of the policy should be changed. After discussion, the title of this policy will be changed from "Psychotropic Drug Use" to "Psychotropic Drugs"

***Motion by Ms. Cohen to bring Policy 5141.231as modified to the full Board for a first read at the December meeting.***

**Vote unanimous**

**Motion carried**

**E. 5141.25 – Special Health Care Needs**

Dr. Dumais stated that this policy directs that a food allergy management plan be in place; this is currently being drafted.

***Motion by Ms. McCreven to bring Policy 5141.25 to the full Board for a first read at the December meeting.***

**Vote unanimous**

**Motion carried**

**F. 5141.3 – Immunizations**

Regarding page (a), paragraph 5 – Dr. Dumais stated that CAGE policy also lists the school nurse as someone who would be able to "officially acknowledge the request." This has been deleted from Amity's policy.

Regarding paragraph 6 – This paragraph will be divided into two paragraphs, beginning with "It is the responsibility of the Principal to insure that each student enrolled has been adequately immunized and has fulfilled the required health assessments." Text will be added to the end of this sentence to read ..."fulfilled the required health assessments or has provided a valid exemption."

There was a question and discussion of whether this policy covers only religious grounds for exemption, and not covering medical grounds such as an allergy to the vaccine. Dr. Dumais will check with CAGE to see if 5141.3(b) vi-3 needs to be included in the policy.

***Motion by Ms. Cohen to bring Policy 5141.3(a) as amended, pending further clarification of 5141.3(b) vi 3, to the full Board for a first read at the December meeting.***

**Vote unanimous**

**Motion carried**

***Motion by Ms. Cohen to adjourn at 7:17 pm.***

**Vote unanimous**

**Motion carried**

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth E. Natzel, Recording Clerk