



Seymour Board of Education

POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES

December 4, 2018
Central Office
5:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Jim Garofolo
Jennifer Magri, Chairperson

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Jay Hatfield

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Michael Wilson, Superintendent of Schools
Lee-Ann Dauerty, Board Clerk

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Magri called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 5:10 pm.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

III. DISCUSSION

A. Policy Discussion and Possible Action

1. Policy Revisions

a. 3542.31 – Electronic Communications Use and Retention

Mr. Wilson noted that the policy number is 3543.31. He noted that this was a change with regard to the length of time emails are accessible. This policy states they are assessable for 24 months which is due to the capacity of our servers. Mr. Garofolo asked if there was a lawsuit that went on for longer than 24 months what would happen. Mr. Wilson said our servers can only save the emails for 24 months. Ms. Magri agreed this was a good thing. Mr. Garofolo asked about Board members emails and Mr. Wilson said they are also housed on our servers so they will also be save for 24 months.

2. Adoption of New Policies

a. 5144.1 (b) Use of Physical Force

Mr. Wilson said this is a new policy that addresses the proper restraint training for all employees. This will keep us current and will protect the Board and the employees of the Board. Mr. Garofolo asked if this policy was vetted by the attorneys. Mr. Wilson confirmed it was as it came from CAFE. Ms. Magri asked that we clean up the areas that have to do with dates before we approve it at the full board. Mr. Wilson said he could do this. Mr. Garofolo asked if we have to use restraint when we have students in the upper grades suffering from mental health issues. Mr. Wilson said no one is physically restrained in those situations and restraint is most often used in the elementary grades for kids who are unable to control themselves. Ms. Magri questioned the topic of generalized training on page 5 which indicates all employees should be trained. Mr. Wilson said the majority are trained and Dr. Boyle is a certified trainer. He said he would clean up the language of this policy. Mr. Garofolo said he was concerned with the language "school employees vs. school professionals".

- b. 5145.53 Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Youth
Mr. Wilson said this policy is required and at some point we will need to have this policy in place. Ms. Magri said she felt this fell under our inclusive and non-discriminatory language. Mr. Wilson said this is a CAGE hot button issue. Ms. Magri said we will need to rewrite some the language from suggestive to definite statements. Mr. Wilson said the staff has not been trained in this subject yet. Mr. Wilson said a situation may be coming up. Mr. Garofolo asked about locker room accessibility. Mr. Wilson said we would offer the transgender student an alternative location to change If the student has transitioned and legally changed their name, they would be able to change in the locker room of what gender they identify with. He said the law has not properly caught up to policy especially if no surgery has taken place. Ms. Magri suggested this policy should be reviewed by Fred Dorsey and see if he is accepting of the policy before we go forward. She said we should consider something more simplified.

MOTION: (Mr. Garofolo/sec., Ms. Magri) to send Policy #3542.31 – Electronic Communications Use and Retention and Policy #5144.1 (a-f) Use of Physical Force to the full Board for approval after changes are made.

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Magri

MOTION: (Mr. Garofolo/sec., Ms. Magri) to table Policy #5145.53 Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Youth

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Magri

- B. Next Meeting Date and Time
The next meeting date for the Policy Committee is January 14, 2018 at 7:45 pm in the Library media classroom at Seymour Middle School.

IV. INFORMATION

- A. Reports
 - 1. Chairman's Report
None
 - 2. Superintendent's Report
None

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

VI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: (Mr. Garofolo/sec., Ms. Magri) to adjourn

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Magri

Meeting adjourned at 5:48 pm

Submitted by:
Lee-Ann Dauerty
Board Clerk