

POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

September 26, 2023 - 5:30pm

Meeting Location: Collaboration Conference Room

454 S. Harvey Street, Plymouth, MI 48170

Committee Attendees: Shonta Langford, Dr. Monica Merritt, Patti McCoin, Bernadette Kakooza, Aaron Champney, Anupam Sidu, Chris Allan, Aamina Ahmed

Other Attendees: Dr. Lisa Anglin, Mr. Johnson, Ally Meyette, Mark Salzer, Andrew Steinman

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:34 pm and Member McCoin welcomed everyone.
2. Citizen's Comments: None
3. The meeting minutes from August 29, 2023 were reviewed. The October meeting date has been requested to be updated to October 24, 2023 to coincide with the date of the board meeting.
 - a. The two policies listed for review, the Student Technology Acceptable Use and Safety and the Staff Technology Acceptable Use and Safety have been pulled from the agenda. Board members have additional questions, so we will wait to review until questions have been answered.
 - i. Mark Salzar and Andrew Steinman attended to answer any questions.
 - ii. Anupam has specific questions about AI and Chp GBT - would like community input
 - iii. Anupam will email her questions to Mark, Patti, and Shonta - she would like to look at using different language for the policies
 - iv. Mark discussed how a working group is being put together to work with other districts on how to approach the use of AI
 1. Parents who are interested in joining the group are welcome to attend
 2. The districts would like to have community involvement
4. Old Business - policies are being reviewed
5. New Business
 - a. Policy 5112 Entrance Age
 - i. The policy language references that the law changed in 2014 but the date still shows 1993 up at the top. 2014 is included at the bottom next to revised
 1. Patti asked if the revision date of 2014 should be moved to the top of the page
 2. Shonta questioned the use of Board vs District

- a. Dr. Merritt says the use of Board of Education in this instance is the correct language as it is consistent with state law
 - ii. Aaron asked if there is a way for us to capture that the policy has been reviewed even when it hasn't been revised?
 - 1. Suggests that we put the date the policy was last revised at the top of the document and the date it was last reviewed at the bottom of the document. This way it will show that the policies have been reviewed by the committee
 - iii. It was concluded that Shonta would ask NEOLA if the document could be revised to include these changes
- b. Policy 5120 Assignment Within District
 - i. The date listed at the top is 1993 - makes it appear that this policy hasn't been reviewed in a while
 - ii. Aaron questioned what point d means - what does wholesome and educationally sound balance mean?
 - 1. The group agreed that it was a catch all phrase
 - iii. Patti asked if we have a policy that says we review the boundaries?
 - 1. Should we include this language in the policy?
 - a. Notes that there have been some schools that were built and not opened due to funds
 - 2. Shonta suggests adding reference to policy that discusses superintendent will periodically review the boundaries, policy 9140.01
 - iv. Aaron noted that the language used is missing discrimination against sexual orientation
 - 1. Pointed out that we should have the language mirror the other policies
 - 2. Chris pointed out there is a larger list for harassment policy
 - v. Shonta asked, does the board vote on school assignment or is it the district that decides?
 - 1. Dr. Merritt stated that the boundaries are decided by the board and the district decides assignment within the boundaries
 - 2. The board members in attendance agreed that they have voted on this in the past. It is decided based on resources where students will go to school
 - vi. Anupam asked if the word wholesome should be changed?
 - 1. Should the word be removed altogether?
 - 2. The group decided that the language should be revised to "Educationally sound balance of student populations"
- c. Policy 5130 Withdrawal from School
 - i. The law has changed regarding 16 year olds
 - 1. This policy is no longer compliant with Michigan law. The legal age students must attend school till is now 18.

- 2. Proposed change - must comply with Michigan law
 - a. Will ask NEOLA about this
 - ii. Patti asked about mandatory kindergarten
 - 1. It was noted that it is not required in Michigan
 - iii. Aaron asked if there is a maximum age of a student who can attend public school? Can a student age out?
 - 1. It was noted that there is an age limit in middle schools.
 - 2. Patti stated that at a certain point we do need an age limit. We can't have 25 year olds and 14 year olds together
 - 3. There are sport participation guidelines in regards to age
 - 4. This question will be posed to NEOLA
- d. Policy 5136 Personal Communication Device
 - i. Remove outdated language, i.e. reference to pagers, and update
 - 1. Include cell phones/personal communication devices/mobile devices
 - 2. If the language is changed to include specific items, we would have to constantly update the policy as technology changes
 - a. We will use personal communication devices
 - ii. The language of this policy does not match school policies
 - 1. Aaron asked if we should cross reference this with medical devices that use cell phones?
 - a. Students usually have a 504 in this case
 - b. Should language be included that students can only have a device out for medical need?
 - 2. Lisa noted that this language is too specific
 - a. The guidelines for devices are different at each grade level. We should have the policy state that the student handbook should be referenced for guidelines instead of having specific rules outlined in the policy.
 - 3. We can have district wide rules and then say reference student handbook for specific guidelines
 - a. These guidelines will be directed by the technology department - state how devices can be used specifically
 - iii. Pose the question to NEOLA - Do we need to have this policy since we have rules in the student handbook and we have technology guidelines in place in the district?
 - 1. If policy is kept, we will update language from his/her to their
 - 2. If policy is kept, we will use language: reference student handbook
- e. Policy 5223 Absences for Religious Instruction
 - i. Patti looked up the law regarding absences for religious reasons today and she noted that the policy in place does follow what the law states
 - 1. If a child is removed from school for religious reasons, the district allows it

2. We do require documentation showing the child is registered with the religious institution to be filed with the school
 - ii. Question raised if the law requires documentation?
 1. The law says that written release from a parent is required - it does not require documentation from a religious institution
 - iii. Will ask NEOLA if the language can be updated to be less strict or if we need to keep this policy at all
 1. Some religions do not have documentation to provide, so this could create issues.
 2. The attendance policy covers this, so is a board policy needed?
 - a. It could be helpful if there are frequent absences made by the same student
 3. How is asking for this documentation different from asking for a doctor's note?
 - a. The absence in Mistar would be marked differently if a note is provided. If the absence is unexcused, the student does not have to make up missed work
 - b. We do have a code in Mistar for a religious absence
 - f. Policy 5230 Early Dismissal and Late Arrival
 - i. The language of the policy says parent - should be updated to legal guardians as not all students live with a parent.
 - ii. If court documentation is not provided, then a student's file cannot be updated in regards to custody rights.
 - iii. Update language to say their instead of him/her
 - g. Policy 5310 Health Screening
 - i. Question posed if we have ever had instances where a health exam was given by the school district?
 1. No, we have not.
 - ii. Ask NEOLA about this language for the last paragraph - it needs to be updated
6. Meeting adjourned at 6:45pm