



POLICY/COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

April 16, 2025

Virtual Meeting - 4:00 p.m.

Committee Members: Ellen DePinto, Chair
Pamela Cassidy, Beth Fiore, Linda Rad

Administrative Staff: Dr. Jonathan Hart, Superintendent of Schools
Jason Bohm, SBA/Board Secretary

Agenda

1. Policy Tracking Document for Review of 1000 Series - The committee has worked through all of the policies in the 1,000 series and made their notes. The committee will review these policies and edits during our next meeting in May.
2. Bylaw Folder - The committee reviewed the updated bylaws to ensure they reflected the suggested edits discussed in previous meetings.
Revisions include:
 - i. 0000.01 - Adoption Resolution - Added date and updated the address
 - ii. 0110 - Identification - updated the address
 - iii. 0132- Executive Authority - no change needed and removed from Board agenda
 - iv. 0134 - Board Self-Evaluation - reflects our commitment to our Board Self-Evaluation for our own appraisal to ensure accountability to the public.
 - v. 0141 - Board Member Number and Term - Added language to clarify that a vacancy shall be filled by a roll call vote of the majority of present board members.
 - vi. 0142 - Board Member Qualifications, Prohibited Acts... - changed 3 years to 1 year to match state and county codes.
 - vii. 0142.1 - Nepotism - added language regarding per diem substitutes and student employees who are relatives of a Board member or the Superintendent of Schools which makes this policy consistent with the updates in code.
 - viii. 0143 - Board Member Election and Appointment - removed language regarding Type II regionalized Districts and replaced "remaining" with "present" where appropriate in a few places.
 - ix. 0145 - Board Member Resignation and Removal - added voluntary resignation of a board member to the list along with examples of good cause.

- x. 0146 - Board Member Authority - Added statement that Board members shall refer all public complaints to the Superintendent.
 - xi. 0153 - Annual Appointments - added a few types of annual appointments the board can make. Examples include attendance officers, school physicians etc.
 - xii. 0155 - Board Committees - memorialized our current practices, listed our committees and rules of our meetings. Added a statement that recording committee meetings is prohibited and Board of Education members, current and past, shall respect the confidentiality of committee meetings.
 - xiii. 0164 - Conduct of Board Meeting - Added the order of our Board meetings including board actions and committee reports.
 - xiv. 0167 - Public Participation in Board Meetings - added the following language: In order to provide sufficient opportunity for the public to be heard, a time limit of three minutes for each participant may be observed and no participant may cede their three minutes to another participant. Every effort will be made to allow all members of the public an opportunity to speak, not to exceed 3 minutes per person. This may be adjusted as the Board President sees fit.
 - xv. 0168 - Recording Board Meetings - Added the following language: Board of Education members are prohibited from recording Board of Education meetings and committee meetings. Board of Education members, current and past, shall respect the confidentiality of committee meetings.
 - xvi. 0169 - Board Member Use of Electronic Mail/Internet - Added a paragraph that states Board members are reminded that, as elected officials, they are held to a higher standard and bound by their oath when engaging on social media. When making posts on social media platforms the member shall be guided by the Code of Ethics for School Board Member ,regardless of the use of a disclaimer.
 - xvii. 0171 - Duties of Board President and Vice President - Added more specific guidelines that match what we do in practice.
 - xviii. 0174 - Legal Services - Added language to define who is responsible for reviewing the legal bills to ensure prudent use of legal services.
 - xix. 0177 - Professional Services - Minor changes to language were made and a sentence was added regarding RFPs.
- b. Abolish Policies include:
- i. 0131.1 - Education-Technology Committee - abolished because it is included in another policy.
 - ii. 0147 - Board Member Travel Expenses - abolished because it is included in another policy.
 - iii. 0155.01 - Board Member Participation of Board Meetings Using Electronic Devices - Abolished because it is no longer needed as it was created for Covid era purposes.

3. Referendum Communication Idea Brainstorming

- a. Mailer - Dr. Hart will discuss this with the Communications Consultant

- b. Board Meetings in the fall: two (2) in September at TBS and WHS. The Board meetings will take place at these schools. And one (1) in October at HBS and RMS. The purpose of having these meetings is to open up the buildings and allow walk-throughs.
 - c. Two (2) informational meetings in September and October - These meetings will be public forums with Dr. Hart, Mr.Bohm and the architects to provide an opportunity for the public to answer questions
 - d. Community events/tables, etc. - The committee made suggestions of some community events such as the Summer Spectacular, National Night Out and Touch a Truck.
4. School Calendar 2026-2027 - Dr. Hart will reach out to the high school to see if it is possible to align our calendar with theirs. The committee discussed the pros and cons of both calendar options. This is still under review.
- a. Option 1 - Kids start after Labor Day
 - b. Option 2 - kids start before Labor Day

Agenda items: Bylaws listed above

Next Meeting: Wednesday May 28, 2025 @ 4PM