



# POLICY/COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

September 21, 2021

Virtual Meeting - 5:00 p.m.

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Committee Members: Beth Fiore, Chair,  
Anthony Emmons, Julie Flores, Eric Zwerling

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

## Agenda

1. The Committee recommended Adopting the following policies included in Strauss Esmay's Policy Alert 223. These are mandated policies.
  - a. Policy and Regulation 6471 - School District Travel (attachment 1a, 1b). These administrative code sections were re-written to align with the State of New Jersey Department of the Treasury, Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular 16-11. This new policy includes language updates, but in essence is the same travel policy.
    - In addition to adopting this policy, the Committee recommends increasing the annual maximum amount per employee for regular business travel not requiring prior Board approval from \$150 to \$200 to adjust for inflation.
  - b. Policy 8561 - Procurement Procedures for School Nutrition Programs (attachment 1c). This update removes the chart "Form 358 – Federal Funds Procurement Method Selection Chart" from the policy language and includes a link to the website with the most up to date version of the chart.
  
2. The Committee recommended Adopting the following policies included in Strauss Esmay's Policy Alert 224.
  - a. Policy 1648.11 - The Road Forward - Health and Safety (attachment 2a). The Road Forward provides school districts with recommendations regarding safety and health protocols regarding COVID-19 for opening schools safely and effectively at the start of the 2021-2022 school year.
  - b. Policy 2422 - Comprehensive Health and Physical Education (attachment 2b). Six new statutes were recently approved and codified to address issues that must be included in the school district's curriculum as required by the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS). This is state mandated. The statutes include Sexual Abuse and Assault Awareness and Prevention Education, Curriculum to Include Instruction on Diversity and Inclusion, Incorporation of Age-Appropriate Instruction Relative to Consent for Physical Contact and Sexual Activity, Health Curriculum to Include Instruction on Mental Health, Information About "New Jersey Safe Haven Infant Protection Act" Included in Public School Curriculum, Infusion of African American Accomplishments into School Curricula. The curriculum may be covered in other instructional areas, not just limited to Health and Physical Education.
  - c. Policy 2467 - Surrogate Parents and Resource Family (attachment 2c). This is a terminology update, specifically the replacement of "foster parent" with "resource family parent". This is state mandated.

- d. Policy 5111 - Eligibility of Resident and Non Resident Pupils (attachment 2d). The statutory language added to Policy 5111 addresses residency criteria for a student residing outside the district to be allowed to continue attending school in the district. This is a mandated policy.
  - e. Policy 5116 - Education of Homeless Students (attachment 2e). N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1 was recently revised and now requires districts to annually report to the Office of Homelessness Prevention in the Department of Community Affairs an accounting of each instance in which the district is made aware that a student enrolled in the district because the student's parent moved from one district to another district as a result of being homeless.
  - f. Policy 8420 – Emergency and Crisis Situations (attachment 2f). Policy Guide 8420 was revised to align with the updated statutes by inserting language provided by N.J.S.A. 18A:41-1 regarding fire and school security drills. This is state mandated.
  - g. Regulation 8420.1 – Fire and Fire Drills (attachment 2g). Regulation Guide 8420.1 also includes added language from N.J.S.A. 18A:41-2 and N.J.S.A. 18A:41-5 to directly align with a school district's responsibilities regarding fire safety as mandated by law.
3. The Committee discussed Abolishing the following Policies. The committee recommends that Policy 1648 and 5114 be tabled until November once new policies 1648.11 and 5111 are adopted. Policies 1648.02 and Policy 8810 were recommended for Abolishment.
    - a. Policy 1648 - [Restart and Recovery Plan](#). Tabled until November Board meeting.
    - b. Policy 1648.02 - [Remote Learning Options for Families](#) Now that we are in the next phase of reopening this policy is obsolete. Further, the Governor announced that remote learning will not be an option for families this school year.
    - c. Policy 5114 - [Children Displaced by Domestic Violence](#) Tabled until November Board meeting.
    - d. Policy 8810 - [Religious Holidays](#) The provisions of this policy are addressed in policy 2270 - Religion in Schools.
  4. New website roll out scheduled for mid-October. Staff members are working on web content. The website will be down for one day as the new website goes live. This will be communicated in advance.
  5. Press Releases Tentative Topics (Based on Communications Plan):
    - a. September (due August 15): Summer Enrichment Review (Sherry) and Welcome Back (Dr. Hart)
    - b. October (due September 15): Capital Projects completed (Jason) and HSA Events (Jodi)
    - c. November (due October 15): Accelerate Learning or Curriculum (Sarah/Stacey) and Highlight of Goals (Dr. Hart)
  6. Next Meeting: October 19 at 5pm