



POLICY/COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

February 24, 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 Review Rubric:** The Committee reviewed the Policy Tracking Document. Over the past month each committee member reviewed the bylaws in the policy manual and made notes and suggestions on bringing them up to date ensuring they support current laws, statutes, and code as well as meeting the district needs. Dr. Hart will draft the edits and bring them back to the committee for further discussion and review and ultimately to the full board for first read. Many bylaws only required minor edits.

The following bylaws require more involved revisions:

- 0134 Board Self Evaluation - further define this bylaw to include language showing our commitment to conducting a self evaluation each year ensuring accountability to the public and to improve our board function each year.
- 0141 Board Member Number and Term - include language to clarify the majority vote of the remaining members of the board.
- 0145 Board Member Resignation and Removal - include language to cover voluntary resignations.
- 0153 Annual Appointments - to have a more extensive list of appointments to include board attorney, attendance officer, psychological examiner, insurance broker etc.
- 0167 Public Participation in Board Meetings - clarify the language regarding the time limit mentioned to better reflect how our meetings are conducted.
- 0171 Duties of Board President and Vice President - include language to further clarify and add additional responsibilities of the Board President.
- 0174 Legal Services - include more specific language regarding maximum amount, who is responsible for the log and specify what information should be included in the log.

The following bylaws have been recommended to be abolished:

- 0131.1 Ed Tech Committee - This is covered in policy 0155 Board Committees.

- b. 0147 Board Member Travel Expenditures - this content is covered in policy 6471 School District Travel.

The following bylaws require further discussion in committee:

- a. 0155.01 Board Member Participation of Board Meetings Using Electronic Devices - This was created for the unique situation Covid presented and we need to see if it still serves a purpose to the district.
- b. 0168 Recording Board Meetings - further discussion is needed to see if language should be included regarding board member recording of committee meetings etc. and also if this should include AI tools.
- c. 0169 Board Member Use of Electronic Mail/Internet - further discussion is needed to see if we include language regarding social networking sites in this policy or if we add a separate policy to cover it.
- d. 0175 Contracts With Independent Consultants - further discussion is needed to see if we should add this to our bylaws.

2. Cell Phone Policy

- a. **Data** - The Committee reviewed results from the cell phone policy survey which revealed that staff and parents strongly believe that cell phone use has an impact on student achievement and mental health and wellbeing. The majority of students who participated also indicated that they feel cell phone use has an impact on their mental health and wellbeing.
- b. **Sample Policy 5516.01** - Student Use of Wireless Communication Devices Including Cell Phones -This policy states that students are prohibited from using wireless communication devices during the school day. Students may use wireless communication devices before or after school, while on school buses, or during co-curricular activities. Nothing in this policy shall prohibit a student from using a wireless communication device for a purpose documented in a classified student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or a plan developed under section 504 of the "Rehabilitation Act of 1973," 29 U.S.C. 794. A student may use a wireless communication device to monitor or address a health condition, which shall be with prior permission of the School Nurse and documented in the student's Individual Health Plan. It also states students shall keep their wireless communication devices silenced and in a secure place, such as the student's locker, at all times when device use is prohibited; provided, however, that students may wear smart watches at all times, but shall refrain from using the devices for any purpose other than timekeeping during instructional periods. The Committee agreed that this policy should move forward to first read. The committee also agreed that if this policy passes the full board, that a review of this policy should be conducted six months in to see if the implementation and practicality are working well.

3. Alert 234 (con't) - Tabled until next committee meeting due to time constraints.

- a. Policy 5111 - Eligibility of Resident and Nonresident Students
- b. Policy 8500 - Food Service

4. Key Communicators Meeting - Scheduled for March 25: Dr. Hart shared with the committee that the Key Communicators Meeting is scheduled and there is good participation so far and responses are still coming in.

5. **Smore Feedback** - Dr. Hart shared the results of the Smore Newsletter survey. 100% love it and 0% prefer the other version.
6. **Agenda items:** Policy 5516.01
7. **Next Meeting:** Monday, March 24, 2025 at 4:00PM