



POLICY/COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes

November 15, 2021

Virtual Meeting - 5:00 p.m.

Committee Members: Beth Fiore, Chair

Anthony Emmons (not present), Julie Flores, Eric Zwerling

Administrative Staff: Dr. Jonathan Hart, Superintendent of Schools

Jason Bohm, SBA/Board Secretary

Agenda

1. Policy Alert 225 (tabled from last meeting) The United States Department of Education recently published a Final Rule amending the Federal Title IX regulations regarding sexual harassment of students by school employees, other students, or third parties. These new Federal regulations revise the definition of sexual harassment and include a detailed procedure on how public school districts must respond to allegations of sexual harassment. The Final Rule defines sexual harassment; requires the school district to designate a Title IX Coordinator; outlines notice requirements; and establishes reporting, investigation, hearing, and appeal process requirements. The Committee recommended Adopting Policy/Regulation 5751. This is a mandated policy.
 - a. Policy 5751 – Sexual Harassment of Students
 - b. Regulation 5751 – Sexual Harassment of Students
2. Green Policies for Review. The committee reviewed the current Green Policies in preparation for the district's Sustainable Jersey for Schools certification applications that are due in the Spring.
 - a. Policy 7423 - Green and Healthy Schools Cleaning Policy. No changes needed.
 - b. Policy 7460 - Energy Conservation. Minor changes needed to bring up to date.
 - c. Policy 7461 - District Sustainability Policy. Substantial changes which include language about establishing a position (stipend or stand-alone) for sustainability initiatives, a Green Building policy to prioritize green building standards on capital/renovation projects, an update to the Safe Routes to School Policy as well as an Active Transportation section that addresses walking and bicycling safety/guidelines, and lastly, S.E.L. language about the five core competencies.
 - d. Policy 7471 - Idle-Free School Zones. No changes, updated recently.
3. Regulation 2510 - [Adoption of Textbooks](#) Dr. Hart discussed several minor changes to the Adoption of Textbooks Regulation which does not need Board Approval, but was shared with us as informational. The new Regulation includes defining the Department Supervisor's role in chairing and selecting the makeup of the selection committee which will include no fewer than three teaching staff members, who represent a range of interests and backgrounds. The current Regulation refers to an Assistant Superintendent position which does not currently exist.
4. Diversity Equity and Inclusion. Dr. Hart asked the committee for input on the Planning and Next Steps document created by the Leadership Team. In terms of policy updates needed, the district already has many equity policies established. Perhaps if there is a need for an overarching D.E.I. policy it could simply refer to all of the current policies. In addition to those listed under the “what we currently do now,” the district has language around equity and inclusion in many policies such as Pupil Rights, EEO,

EE/Anti-Discrimination Practices, Bilingual and ESL Education, Resource Materials, Grievance Policy, No Child Left Behind/Every Student Succeeds Act, Special Education, Equal Access of Pupil Organizations, and potentially others. Also, feedback was provided to Dr. Hart on the “what we currently do” sections to also include initiatives around: breakfast program, students with special needs, English language learners, families in need, chromebooks/internet access for all students, and GT screening.

5. Press Releases Tentative Topics (Based on Communications Plan):
 - a. December (due November 15): Highlight of Food Service and Food Pantry (Ms. DeRiso)
 - b. January (due December 15): Technology Initiatives (Mr. Belske), Kindergarten Registration (Ms. Harris)
 - c. February (due January 15): Budget Time of Year (Finance Chair), Kindergarten Registration Reminder (Ms. Harris)

6. Next Meeting: TBD after Jan Reorg Meeting