



## POLICY/COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

October 27, 2022

Virtual Meeting - 4:00 p.m.

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Committee Members: Jodi Bettermann, Chair  
Beth Fiore, Jennifer Wolf, Eric Zwerling

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

### Agenda

1. Policy Alert 228 (cont'd)
  - a. Policy 5722 - Student Journalism
    - i. Follow up from last meeting included Dr. Hart following up to get an opinion from the district's attorney whether yearbooks fall under the scope of this policy. Criteria for falling within the policy are 1) material prepared by student journalists, 2) material made available to students generally, and 3) material prepared under the direction of a staff advisor. The Committee discussed that yearbooks created by student clubs at HBS and RMS are covered by this policy; however, the TBS and WHS yearbooks created by H.S.A. parent volunteers outside of the school are not included in this policy. In addition, Dr. Hart shared that there will be a RMS student literary magazine starting this year, which would fall under this policy as well.
    - ii. Based on feedback from the Committee at the last meeting, paragraph 5 now includes some sample policies to give direction to staff members who need to consult the policy.
    - iii. This policy is recommended to go forward to the Board for 1<sup>st</sup> reading.
  - b. Regulation 3270 was updated based on the Committee's input from last month on Policy 3270, Professional Responsibilities, regarding adding guidance around parent requests to review lesson plans. Regulation 3270, Lesson Plan Books, now includes the following: "*Lesson Plans for Public View – The Board of Education fully encourages conversation between teaching staff members and parents regarding events that occur in the classroom and a child's response to lessons delivered. Should a parent request to see a teacher's lesson plans for a specific subject or subjects in advance, the teacher should seek guidance from his/her building principal or immediate supervisor.*"
2. Abolish (Based on Alert 228) – The following policy and regulation will be abolished and replaced with Policy 5722, Student Journalism and its associated regulation.
  - a. Policy 2432 – School Sponsored Publications (Abolished)
  - b. Regulation 2432 – School Sponsored Publications (Abolished)
3. Policy 2425 - Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Program and Regulation 2425
  - a. This policy was adopted December 14, 2021, and is now being updated based on new legislation. This policy allows the district to move to remote instruction after being closed for 3 consecutive days. It gives the Superintendent the authority to implement the district's program of remote instruction which must be approved annually by the Board of Education and the Commissioner of Education. The Board approved our district's Health Related Closure Plan 2022-23 at our September 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.
  - b. Dr. Hart explained that the district calendar has 2 snow days built in. In addition, our calendar includes 181 days of school, so we have 1 extra day where we could implement virtual instruction because the minimum requirement is 180 days of school.

4. Communications Plan
  - a. Dr. Hart provided an updated plan which includes sections on social media presence, podcasts, and news articles.
  - b. Plan to recognize Sustainable Jersey for Schools achievements at the next Board meeting.
5. Opt-Out vs. Opt-In Discussion
  - a. Attorney opinion received providing guidance around curriculum opt-outs related to Policy 5250.
  - b. Revised policy 5250 - Excusal from Class or Program
    - i. This policy is still under discussion and revision based on attorney opinion and Committee questions and will not go to the full Board at this time. Board members please send comments and questions to Policy Chair, Jodi Bettermann, prior to the next Committee meeting on December 1<sup>st</sup>.
6. Press Releases Tentative Topics (Based on Communications Plan):
  - a. November (due October 15): Curriculum: Results of NJSLA (Dr. Brown and Ms. Pauch with Ed/Tech Chair) and possibly an article about Solar Installation (Mr. Bohm), Governor Educator of the Year (Ms. Harris)
  - b. December (due November 15): Food Service or Food Pantry (Mr. Egbert) and Strategic Goals (Dr. Hart)
  - c. In addition, we are planning some press revolving around Sustainable Jersey and the bioswale at TBS.
7. Agenda items: Policy 5722, policy 2425, abolish policy 2432
8. Next Meeting: Thursday, December 1, at 4 p.m.