

**CITY OF NORWALK
BOARD OF EDUCATION
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
APRIL 21, 2015**

ATTENDANCE: Heidi Keyes, Chair; Sherelle Harris, Artie Kassimis, Shirley Mosby

STAFF: Brenda Williams, Director of Communications

Tony Daddona, Deputy Superintendent; Ed Singleton, Director of Operations.

OTHER BOE Non-Committee Member: Bruce Mellion, NFT

Call to Order

Ms. Keyes called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. and stated that Committee members were in attendance as listed above, and a quorum was present.

Discussion: Recess Guidelines

Ms. Keyes asked Mr. Daddona to present the report on recess and recommendations from the sub-committee. Mr. Daddona presented minutes of the meeting along with a list of those in attendance and noted that it represented building principals, assistant principals, teachers and parents. He read from the minutes and highlighted that in review of the district's Recess Guidelines some members of the committee believe that outdoor recess while it is "misting" is inappropriate due to wet clothing, wet fields, wet equipment. Committee Members stated their concerns for facilitating recess in weather conditions with precipitation

Mr. Daddona stated that outdoor recess is our priority and asked if anyone knew what surrounding school districts recommended for outdoor recess. The committee unanimously agreed that temperatures ranging at 20° and above are acceptable for students to have outdoor recess. Temperatures reaching 20° and below are unacceptable for students to be outside as well as principals may want to check with the City of Norwalk, Health Department when faced with extreme hot weather related issues.

An overview of their feedback and the areas of recommended changes as follows:

Recess Recommended Guidelines:

Outdoor recess is the priority for students in schools where recess is facilitated. Outdoor recess is at the discretion of the building principal and may be cancelled at any time based upon the following weather conditions:

- 1) Precipitation: rain, misting, drizzling, freezing rain, sleet, snow
- 2) Temperatures below 20° Fahrenheit
- 3) Wind chill factors causing perceived temperatures below 20°
- 4) Temperatures 90° Fahrenheit and above (consult with Norwalk Health Department)
- 5) In the unlikely event that a field or typical recess area is out of commission during recess time, the building principal or his/her designee may change said location of recess or cancel recess, until further notice, at his/her discretion.

There was discussion on the next steps and it was agreed to have the detail of the wording of the policy amendments brought back to the Policy Committee for review of the recommended changes. The policy should then be brought to the full Board for discussion in May.

Ms. Mosby asked what the plan is for outreach to parents and the community for input. Ms. Keyes noted that members of the public can attend any committee meeting and that the policy items are also discussed at the full Board meetings. Ms. Mosby suggested that the item be included in parent e-mail blasts and newsletters reflect that recess policies are being reviewed and amended.

Discussion: Information Technology Policies

Development of “Bring Your Own Device” Policy Computers: Websites/Pages (6141.322)
Updates to Telecommunications/Internet – Acceptable Use (6141.321);
Internet Acceptable Use: Filtering (6141.323) Electronic Resources.

Mr. Ralph Valenzisi distributed information from K-12 Blueprint Resources on the above technology policy items and reviewed the highlights. There was discussion of BYOD, Bring Your Own Device. Mr. Valenzisi explained the complications involving use of the internet, complications of security and filters.

It was agreed that, due to the amount of information and the timing of the next meeting, for members to review the material independently. The item will remain on the agenda for further discussion and recommended changes for next month.

Other

Mr. Daddona noted that this committee will have to review graduation requirements as part of the high school reform, and that with uniform scheduling the schools will be transitioning to block scheduling next year. He added that the graduation requirements is an important area that the Committee should begin to tackle. It was agreed to have this item on the agenda for next month with a timeline of approval by November 2015.

Adjournment

**** MR. KASSIMIS MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Knox,
Telesco Secretarial Services