

**CITY OF NORWALK  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING  
MAY 19, 2015**

ATTENDANCE: Heidi Keyes, Chair; Sherelle Harris, Artie Kassimis, Shirley Mosby (6:35 pm)

STAFF: Brenda Williams, Director of Communications

OTHER 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.

Recess Guidelines

Ms. Keyes reviewed the amended policy and there was consensus to accept the areas of recommended changes as outlined.

Mr. Mellion asked it be noted for the record that he is not in agreement with the 20 degree limit for outdoor recess and feels that it is too cold. There was discussion and it was noted that the principal still has the discretion to cancel outdoor recess depending on weather conditions.

There was discussion on the next steps and it was agreed to have the policy brought to the full Board for discussion in June 2 then followed by approval June 16.

**\*\* MR. KASSIMIS MOVED TO APPROVE AMENDED POLICY FOR SCHOOL RECESS GUIDELINES AND FORWARD TO THE FULL BOARD FOR ADOPTION. \*\*  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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 provided a power point presentation on technology practices in support of amendments to 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.

Charts from the presentation are highlighted as follows:

Bring Your Own Device

Device for every student, anytime access

Devices typically up-to-date

No cost for upgrades or repairs

Lack of uniformity of devices and platforms

Uncontrolled network access

Requires a robust network infrastructure with large bandwidth

Limitations of mobile devices

Network security concerns include data protection and student privacy

-Multiple platforms and devices

-Parent-financed, not a viable option for some districts

-Requires a shift in pedagogy and a new approach to education- teacher as facilitator

-Update network infrastructure and increase bandwidth

-Extensive professional development for teachers

-Off-task behavior, inappropriate use of devices

-Requires buy-in from all stakeholders- parents, students, staff, administrators, school board

-Mobile device limitations- screen size, battery life, lack of keyboard, software compatibility, support for Flash and other multimedia files

-Learning anytime, anywhere without schedule or access restrictions

-Parent-financed, allowing schools to devote much-needed funding to other programs or technologies

-Cost-effective, works with decreasing technology budgets

-Allows for immediate application in the classroom

-Competitive pricing of tablets, Smartphone, and laptop computers—BYOD a viable option for many families

-Replicates a technology-rich environment already common in higher education and business

-Flexibility—support different learners with different needs

-Personalized devices

-Devices are commonly more up- to-date with newer features

-No repairs or maintenance

- Data organization tools
- Web-based applications for classroom polling & quick tests
- Audio for podcasting and radio broadcasts
- Video
- QR codes
- Digital storytelling
- Language learning
- Probe attachments for measuring data
- Course companion sites

It was agreed that, due the item will remain on the agenda for further discussion and recommended changes for next month.

Other

Ms. Keyes 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.

It was agreed to have this on the agenda for next month with a timeline of approval in with the schedule transition plan.

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