

**CITY OF NORWALK
BOARD OF EDUCATION
POLICY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 5, 2016**

ATTENDANCE: Heidi Keyes, Chair; Erik Anderson, Shirley Mosby (6:09 p.m.)

STAFF: Dr. Michael Conner, Chief Academic Officer; Frank Costanzo, Chief of School Operations; Brenda Wilcox Williams, Chief Communications Officer; Scott Hurwitz, BMHS House Master; Mr. S. Reynolds, NPS House Master; Ralph Valenzisi, Chief of Technology, Innovations and Partnerships; Antoinette Williams

OTHERS: Dr. Yvel Crevecoeur, Board of Education;

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Keyes Called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. A quorum was present.

Discussion NPS Attendance Policy Revision

Dr. Conner then indicated that the policy had been last updated in 1995.

Ms. Mosby and Dr. Crevecoeur joined the meeting 6:09 p.m.

Mr. Reynolds then narrated a PowerPoint display on the current policy. He explained that the system has a quarter credit fine for students who are habitually tardy and the only way to make it up is to take another class.

Mr. Reynolds then spoke about the revision process. Other schools were polled for how they handle absences and tardy students. Mr. Hurwitz said that there were students who were six minutes late to class and A students, but only had half a credit for the course. A student who is 10 minutes late to the class is counted as an absence. Mr. Hurwitz pointed out that for students who are showing up chronically late to class, the consequence needs to be immediate rather than at the end of the course.

The discussion moved to the current policy of denial of credit. The State requires 180 days of school and policies from other Districts were reviewed. It was determined that a student who is absent more that 10 times in year would not be given credit for the class.

Mr. Hurwitz noted that the letter "H" would no longer used on the report cards. It will just note that there was no credit for the class. The discussion moved to the notification

process. The letters will be sent out halfway through the quarter and at the end of the quarter. He noted that to the students, it seems to be a 'gotcha" system. The new system will allow the staff to have a conversation with the parent. Ultimately, this is about changing the student's behavior.

Mr. Reynolds pointed out that having a pro-active process will help the student.

Ms. Keyes said that this item had already been before the Curriculum Committee and that it had received that committee's full approval.

Mr. Hurwitz then reviewed the make up of the Appeals Committee. Ms. Mosby asked for clarification on the Appeals Committee and noted that both the student and the parents would have to agree to have a student leader.

Mr. Anderson said that Health and Gym had been a quarter credit. Mr. Reynolds explained that this has just been changed to a quarter long class. He gave a brief explanation on how this would work within the system and pointed out that the policy had been drafted before the Gym and Health course had been changed.

A question was asked about how the trained student leader would be chosen. Mr. Anderson asked if anyone had considered having an NHS student serve at BMHS and vice versa. Mr. Reynolds said that this was a great idea and would be included in the Appeals Process discussion.

Ms. Mosby asked how many students would be trained at each school. She was told that there would be five students at each school. Dr. Conner said that there had been a lot of positive feedback from the students.

**** MR. ANDERSON MOVED TO APPROVE THE NPS ATTENDANCE POLICY WITH AN AMENDMENT TO INCLUDE THE QUARTER CREDIT CLASSES WITH THEIR NOTIFICATION AS DISCUSSED EARLIER AND INCLUSION OF LANGUAGE REGARDING THE STUDENTS FROM THE DIFFERENT HIGH SCHOOLS SERVING ON THE COMMITTEES AT THE OTHER HIGH SCHOOLS.**

**** MS. MOSBY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Ms. Keyes said that this policy would be presented to the full Board.

**DISCUSSION: POLICY 6142 STUDENT NUTRITION AND PHYSICAL
ACTIVITY (School Wellness Policy)
Update from District Wellness Committee**

Ms. Lisa Lenskol, director of Norwalk Roads, came forward. Mr. Valenzisi said that Ms. Lenskol was a stakeholder in the District Wellness Policy. Ms. Lenskol spoke about the Federal Healthy Kids ACT had a requirement to update the Wellness Policy. Mr. Valenzisi pointed out that in order to receive Federal funding there must be a Wellness Committee. A key constituent that was not included was the students themselves. Ms. Lenskol then said that the Committee had already started meeting because the Food Service audit requires copies of the committee meeting minutes. There is no one in charge of Health and Wellness at Central Office.

A discussion followed about how the District would frame this policy and how the District would align themselves with CABE. Ms. Keyes suggested that perhaps a meeting with some of the Wellness Committee. LL said that it would be important to have the individual schools involved in the Committee Policy because the schools would be responsible for implementing the policy. The Committee then asked the wellness Committee to start drafting the policy based on CABE by the August meeting.

Ms. Antoinette Williams came forward and said that she had attended one of the Strategic Planning meeting (SOP). Ms. Williams said that the School Governance Council to be intentional about outreach efforts and diversity on the Council. It would be important not to make an assumption that the response will be a representation that has not been seen in the past by traditional methods. She gave an example of when a parent asked how the Governance Council members would be chosen. The answer to that question was that the PTOCs would be contacted. Mr. Anderson said that this would be discussed at the full Board meeting, which was about to convene. He suggested that Ms. Williams address the full Board during the Public Comment portion.

ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. ANDERSON MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** MS. MOSBY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

City of Norwalk
Board of Education
Policy Committee
Regular Meeting
April 5, 2016