

**CITY OF NORWALK
BOARD OF EDUCATION
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
OCTOBER 20, 2015**

ATTENDANCE: Heidi Keyes, Chair; Sherelle Harris, Artie Kassimis, Shirley Mosby (6:30pm)
Non-Committee Board members: Mike Barbis, Rosa Murray

STAFF: Brenda Williams, Director of Communications;
Bruce Morris, Director of Human Relations; Frank Costanzo.

OTHER: Erik Anderson, Laurie Keegan

Call to Order

Ms. Keyes called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and stated that Committee members were in attendance as listed above, and a quorum was present.

Discussion and Information and Reports:

Policies 5131.91 Bullying, Safe School Climate Plan

Mr. Bruce Morris presented an overview of the background of how policies were developed and changes over the years following incidents of bullying. He distributed a copy of a power point presentation that outlined the definition and policy amendments. He explained that after bullying incidents, guidelines were redefined, then it became a catch-all category, then a pivotal shift occurred in 2008 with Public Act 1132. He explained that the wording is now safe school climate as it encompasses a broader definition of repeated incidents of mean behavior against another student. The outline of statute history is attached for reference.

There was discussion on state guidelines and requirements for training of teachers and school staff. Mr. Morris fielded questions and comments and noted that the presentation is comprehensive and he would address the areas in question with further reports. He provided a track of bullying reports and along with charts of incident report summarized by school.

It was agreed that, further research and analysis would be made, and the item will remain on the agenda for further work in progress and recommended changes for next month.

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

Bullying Statute History

(P.A. 02-119, S. 1; PA. 06-115, S. 1; P.A. 08-160, S. 4; P.A. 11-232, S. 1; P.A. 14-172, S 2; 4-232, S. 2; 14-234, S. 3.)

History: P.A. 02-119 effective July 1, 2002; P.A. 06-115 added annual notification requirement in Subdiv. (1), added Subdiv. (9) re interventions, redefined “bullying” to include harassment and behavior on a school bus and added language re policies to address bullying outside of the school setting, effective July 1, 2006; P.A. 08-160 added language re implementation of policy, deleted provision re use on and after February 1, 2003, amended Subdiv. (3) to require notification be in writing, amended Subdiv. (4) to add exception re anonymous report, amended Subdiv. (5) to add language re prevention, amended Subdiv. (7) to add language re notification by each school and invitation to attend at least one meeting, amended Subdiv. (8) to add language re report to Department of Education, added Subdiv. (10) re identification of appropriate personnel, redefined “bullying” to provide that acts may be committed against any student more than once and added language re submission of policy to Department of Education and publication of policy by school district. effective July 1, 2008

(Revisor’s note: In codifying section 4 of public act 08-160, a reference to “this act” was deemed by the Revisors to be a reference to section 5 of that act and therefore cited as “section 10-222g);

P.A. 11-232 replaced references to bullying policy with references to safe school climate plan throughout, designated existing provisions as Subsecs, (b) and (C). added Subsec. (a) re definitions, amended Subsec. (b) by adding provisions re safe school climate plan and making conforming changes, deleting former definition of “bullying”, redesignating existing Subdivs. (5) to (7) as Subdivs. (6) to (8), adding new Subdivs. (5), (9) and (10), redesignating existing Subdiv. (9) as Subdiv. (11), deleting former Subdiv. (10) and adding Subdivs. (12) to (17), amended Subsec. (c) by expanding existing provisions re safe school climate plan and making conforming changes, and added Subsec. (d) re completion and submission of school climate assessments, effective July 1, 2011; P.A. 14-172 amended Subsec. (b) to add provision re notice of bullying policy at the beginning of the school year in Subdiv. (1), add provision re prompt notice to parents re bullying investigation in Subdiv. (4), delete provision re verified act of bullying and add “policies and procedures in place” in Subdiv. (9), add new Subdiv. (10) re meeting with parents or guardians of student who commits verified act of bullying, redesignate existing Subdivs. (10) to (17) as Subdivs. (11) to (18) and make technical changes, effective July 1, 2014; P.A. 14-232 amended Subsec. (c) by replacing “January 1, 2012” with “September 1, 2014”, adding requirement that boards of education that have not had a safe school climate plan previously reviewed and approved by department submit such plan for review and approval and making conforming changes, effective June 13, 2014; P.A. 14-234 amended Subsec. (a) to add new Subdiv. (3) defining “teen dating violence” and redesignate existing Subdivs. (3) to (8) as Subdivs. (4) to (9), and amended Subsec. (b) to add references to teen dating violence. Section, revised to 2007, does not regulate teacher-student bullying but rather student-student bullying. 134 CA 288.