

**CITY OF NORWALK
BOARD OF EDUCATION
POLICY COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
JUNE 20, 2017**

ATTENDANCE: Heidi Keyes, Chair; Erik Anderson, Mike Barbis, Shirley Mosby (6:50 p.m.)

STAFF: Dr. Frank Costanzo, Chief of School Operations; Brenda Wilcox Williams, Chief Communications Officer; Johanna Zanvettor, Transportation

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Keyes called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

May 2, 2017

**** MR. BARBIS MOVED THE MINUTES OF MAY 2, 2017.**

**** MS. KEYES SECONDED.**

Dr. Costanzo said that he would like to amend the May 2nd minutes under the Transgender Policy Discussion to capture the fact that he proposed to the Committee that he reach out to Shipman and Goodwin to find out whether the Board should be going about this via procedures versus developing a policy.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MAY 2, 2017 AS AMENDED PASSED WITH TWO (2) IN FAVOR (KEYES AND BARBIS) AND ONE (1) ABSTENTION (ANDERSON).**

May 11, 2017

**** MR. ANDERSON MOVED THE MINUTES OF MAY 11, 2017**

**** MR. BARBIS SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MAY 11, 2017 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

TRANSPORTATION: ROUTES AND SERVICES POLICY 3541

Review Regulations and Possible Action

Ms. Zanvettor gave a brief overview of the Courtesy policy, which they are proposing to eliminate. She spoke about the Safe Routes to School project and pointed out that this would also help with the nutritional program. Dr. Costanzo said it costs about \$82,000 per bus per year, so this would be a savings of \$164,000 if two buses were eliminated. Mr. Barbis pointed out that some parents would be willing to pay, but the State does not allow this. Ms. Keyes said that it would be important to get this on an agenda so that the Board was not rushed in making a decision.

Ms. Zanvettor spoke about the details of how the lottery is done. Mr. Anderson asked if this was a feasible item that would be able to be approved for the coming school year. He asked if the District could expedite this. The next meeting will be at the end of August. Discussion followed regarding when this could be brought to the full Board for discussion.

Mr. Barbis pointed out that once the budget is passed, the courtesy rides will no longer be available. He said that it would be important to be pro-active and suggested that all the people be notified as soon as possible that the courtesy rides would no longer be available.

****MR. ANDERSON MOVED TO HAVE THE DISCUSSION OF THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY TO THE FULL BOARD AUGUST 15TH MEETING FOR DISCUSSION.**

**** MR. BARBIS SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

TITLE IX; SEXUAL HARASSMENT (STUDENTS) POLICIES

For Review and Discussion

Dr. Costanzo said that there was nothing actionable on Title XI at this time. The administrators will receive the information at the upcoming administrators' retreat. He added that he wanted to be sure that the Committee was aware of this because of the numerous previous discussions. He said that it was not ready to be moved forward at this time. Ms. Williams said that the current policy was outdated and needed to be reviewed.

Ms. Mosby joined the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

**** MR. ANDERSON MOVED TO TABLE DISCUSSION ON TITLE XI UNTIL AUGUST MEETING.**

**** MR. BARBIS SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Dr. Costanzo asked if everyone had received copies of the memorandum from Shipman and Goodwin on the Transgender Students.

Dr. Costanzo said that he had spoken with Atty. Linda Yoder who outlined the appropriate State and Federal laws regarding the transgender students. Her advice was that many if not most districts in Connecticut were opting to work with their attorneys to develop procedures rather than establish policies within the framework of the law. It is better to have procedures that are up and understood by the school administrators versus having a policy in place that would need to be continually revised.

He said that he intended to take all the principals, and other administrators through the memorandum dated June 19, 2017 at the administrators' retreat in August. It contains the latest and best practices concerning transgender students. The memo states what the rights are for transgender students and what the District is obligated to do.

Mr. Anderson asked for clarification regarding the difference between policy and procedures. Dr. Costanzo said that policy is the document that defines what something is about. A procedure is how a District will implement the policy. Ms. William said that this was actually an administrative procedure and not about setting Board policy at this point because the law is changing so rapidly. This will allow the District to protect the students and have the best practices.

Mr. Anderson asked what would happen if people ignored the procedure. Dr. Costanzo outlined the disciplinary actions that would take place. Mr. Anderson asked what would happen if a student felt he was being discriminated against and was not happy with the results. Dr. Costanzo said that they would follow the State laws. He expressed concerns about the fact that if the District does not have a policy the students who are affected by this will also be discriminated against by the lack of policy. Ms. Williams pointed out that the State was still in the process of issuing both guidelines policies. She said that there were already non-discrimination policies in place and suggested that they consider if this would fit in under those policies.

Mr. Anderson said that the other aspect of this involved bathrooms, field trip overnight stays and sports participation. He added that regardless of his faith in the administrators, he would prefer to have clear policies in place.

Dr. Costanzo suggested that he could move forward in presenting the information to the administrators but the Committee could also review this in terms of the anti-discrimination policy and make determinations about what could fit into the existing policy. He added that he would rather not wait to get this implemented. Discussion followed.

Ms. Keyes suggested that this be added into the August Policy agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

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

**** MR. BARBIS SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services