

BOARD OF EDUCATION
FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
FAIRFIELD, CT

Policy Committee Meeting

Tuesday, September 3, 2013
501 Kings Highway East
Superintendent's Conference Room
4:15 p.m.
Minutes

I. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Paul Fattibene at 4:21 p.m. Other committee members present were John Convertito and Jennifer Kennelly, who arrived at 4:26. Karen Parks was in attendance representing the administration. Other members of the public in attendance were Sue Brand and Phil Dwyer, both members of the Board of Education, Sue Miska, and Trish Donovan.

II. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the August 19 meeting were amended as attached and approved as amended 2:0:1.

III. Policy –

- #6200 Instruction – Curriculum, Alignment to 6200 AR

Paul Fattibene moved to amend the agenda to discuss the #6200 Curriculum Policy first and the motion was seconded by John Convertito, and passed 3:0:0. Paul then moved to amend Policy 6200 by adding at the end thereof and before the legal references the following paragraph:

The Board of Education adopts the Administrative Regulations 6200AR dated June 26, 2013. The Administrative Regulations 6200AR dated June 26, 2013 shall not be revised without prior approval of the Board of Education.

The committee voted (3:0:0) to send Policy 6200 with the suggested changes to the full board for the first read at the September 10, 2013 meeting.

- BOE Mission and Goals – Continued Discussion

Jennifer Kennelly suggested that the BOE Mission and Goals be shared with the larger group for feedback, especially the district administrators, before going to the full BOE. Sue Brand expressed concern about more sharing and a focus on changing words for individual likes. The committee members would like feedback from the District Leadership Team before their next meeting on September 16. Paul Fattibene suggested that since the Mission and Goals are now in the hands of the Policy Committee, they can suggest how they are moved forward. The members of the committee suggested that if there are substantive changes they will send them back to the committee for consideration, but they have no requirement to do so. There was a lengthy discussion about the words “ensure” and “successful participant in an ever-changing global society” in the mission

statement but no substitute language was suggested. There were several changes recommended for the Long Term Goal. In the first sentence, “and appreciates” was added after the word recognizes, “the unique qualities of” was deleted, and “each was added after challenges, with students changed to the singular student; “balance” was replaced with “achieve” and “with” was replaced by “including”. The sentence now reads, “Fairfield Public Schools will ensure that every student is engaged in a rigorous learning experience that recognizes and appreciates the individual and challenges each student to achieve academic progress including expressive, personal physical, civic and social development.” The word “global was deleted from the second sentence, and the following phrase was added, “with an appreciation and understanding of global issues”. The second sentence now reads “The students will be respectful, ethical and responsible citizens with an appreciation and understanding of global issues.” Finally, there was a lengthy discussion about the last sentence because several of the members had concerns whether measuring the goal should be part of the goal itself. Finally, the following sentence was suggested to replace the entire last sentence of the goal: Students’ achievement and performance shall rank among the best in the state and nation.”

The members then reviewed the Educational Goals and had concerns that the first goal may be combining both motivation and global citizenship and perhaps they should be separated. Paul suggested that at the next meeting they consider whether the first goal could be renamed and possibly have the bullets separated into two categories, much like the second goal in which there are 3 categories. The committee decided to continue their discussion at the meeting on September 16 as a second item on the agenda. They would like to consider another policy for revision as the first item on the agenda.

IV. Open Discussion/Public Comment

Sue Miska shared several comments with the committee regarding the work of the Mission and Goals Committee and their intent from the specific language. She also shared her appreciation for having the opportunity to work on the committee and for the community to have the opportunity to contribute to the BOE’s Mission and Goals. She commended Jeff Burt for his work facilitating the work of the committee.

V. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.