

BOARD OF EDUCATION
FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
FAIRFIELD, CT

Policy Committee Meeting

Monday, March 3, 2014
Education Center
501 Kings Highway East
Superintendent's Conference Room
4:15 p.m.

Minutes

- I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Jennifer Kennelly at 4:25. In attendance were committee members Donna Karnal, and Karen Parks representing the administration. John Convertito arrived at 4:45. Also in attendance were Philip Dwyer, BOE Chairperson, Eileen Roxbee, Principal Sherman Elementary, Frank Arnone, Principal Osborn Hill Elementary, Liz McGoey, Principal Stratfield Elementary, Anna Cutaia-Leonard, Director Elementary Education, several elementary teachers and 3 parents.
- II. Approval of February 10, 2014, Minutes – Approved 2:0:0
- III. Policy
 - Policy #5519 Students – Wellness: There was a lengthy discussion regarding whether lunch should be served to elementary students before or after recess and whether one recess is enough for elementary students, particularly kindergarten students. Both teachers and administrators present indicated that a wealth of research supports lunch after recess because students come to lunch ready to eat and relax. The principals reported that there is much less food thrown away since lunch was moved to after recess. They also indicated that the lunch period is long enough for all students to move through the lunch line and eat their lunch. Several teachers reported that having more than one recess is something that they can and do decide to do when they determine that students need more unstructured time. However, they believe it is not the case every day and would prefer to have the opportunity to make the decision about a second recess as a professional determining it is needed. In responding to the need for more unstructured time, especially for kindergarten, the teachers and administrators present shared the many times during the day when students have unstructured, creative play/social time other than during recess. Policy #5519, Wellness, was moved to the March 11, 2014 Agenda for a first read, 3:0:0.
 - Policy #5515 Students – Protocol for Emergency Medications, Epinephrine: No discussion, the committee voted to postpone a discussion of Policy #5515 to the April 28, 2014 Policy Committee Meeting, 3:0:0.

- Policy #5516 Students – Management of Food Allergies in Schools: There was agreement for those members who can attend the next Policy Committee Meeting scheduled for March 31, 2014, to look over the 4 sample Management of Food Allergies In Schools Policies from CAFE to determine which language best meets our needs. Each Policy Committee Member was also provided with extensive research materials on Life Threatening Food Allergies by Jessica Curran, a concerned parent. Some of the committee members indicated they will be attending the Board of Selectmen Meeting scheduled for the afternoon of March 31 to review the BOE Budget, while others indicated that they will meet to work on the policies.
- IV. Open Discussion/Public Comment: There were many comments from teachers and administrators in attendance as noted above regarding the Wellness Policy. The three parents in attendance spoke about the seriousness of life threatening food allergies, the need for training for all staff, the concerns for their children, and the hope that the Policy Committee will bring the current policy up to date with current state legislation.
- V. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

Future Mtg. Dates and Times: Future Mtg. Dates and Times: **Monday, March 31;** *Monday, April 28; Monday, May 12; Monday, June 2; Monday, June 16; Monday, August 25; TUESDAY, September 2 (Monday is Labor Day); Monday, September 15; Monday, October 13; Monday, November 17; Monday, December 1, 2014.*

All meetings will be held at 501 Kings Highway East, Superintendent's Conference Room unless otherwise noted.