

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
FAIRFIELD, CT

**Standing Committee Meeting  
Curriculum, Policy and Special Programs**

Wednesday, September 22, 2010  
Education Center  
501 Kings Highway East  
Superintendent's Conference Room  
8:00 a.m.

**MINUTES**

- I. Call to Order - Call to Order at 8:00 by Stacey Zahn. Members present: Stacey Zahn, Sue Brand, and Paul Fattibene. Central Office Representatives present: Superintendent Dr. David Title, Deputy Superintendent Jack Boyle, and Director of Special Education Andrea Leonardi. High School Administration: Jim Coyne, Jim Perna, Vanessa Reale, and Frank Tatto. Citizens: Cathy Sondheim, Debbie Strachan, Nancy Billington, Leonora Campbell, and Wendy Bentivegna.
- II. Review of Policies
- Policy 5128 Foreign Exchange Students – Policy revisions were discussed. Paul Fattibene questioned administration regulations and definition of “financial burden”. After discussion committee agreed to move this revision, as proposed, to the September 28, 2010 Board meeting for a first read.
  - Policy 5119, 5120 Suspension/Expulsion- Policy revisions were discussed. Dr. Title shared proposed updated policy and explained the need for clarity in student discipline policy to protect rights of all involved. Discussion of use of hearing officer in expulsion hearings. Ms. Zahn and Mrs. Brand in favor. Mr. Fattibene felt policy too lengthy. Also discussed discipline that occurs on and off school grounds. "Seriously disruptive" should not be defined unless defined in law. CO will check Statute for clarity. The goal of this policy is absolute clarity. In this policy we are removing discretion to protect the rights of all involved.
  - 5313 Substance Abuse – As above
  - 5320 Weapons – As above
  - 6310 Class Size – Mrs. Brand feels these guidelines are inconsistent with policy. Questioned whether the Board should act to make the policy and guidelines consistent for understanding capacity. Mrs. Brand questioned whether it is the time to take a stand and change the policy. Ms. Zahn feels BOE should discuss this. Mrs. Brand felt subcommittee should provide leadership on this issue. Ms. Zahn suggested tabling discussion to allow for significant discussion. Committee agreed to table this discussion to the next meeting.

- 3524.2 Green Cleaning Policy – Discussed. Committee agreed to move this policy to the Board for a first read on September 28, 2010.
- AR 5518 - New Re-entry policy (procedures) for students at-risk – Committee agreed to add provision for a physician’s note to approve re-entry of the child and a re-entry conference.
- 5145 Use of Breathalyzers- reviewed policy as amended in June. To be discussed and voted on by the BOE on September 28, 2010. CO will check with CABA to assess language related to discretion. The committee asked to move the discretion language to indicate that discretion as to which events would be designated for use of the breathalyzer as opposed to which students would be breathalyzed. Currently there is no policy re breathalyzers. Ms. Zahn in support. Dr. Title generally not in favor of surveying students with regard to policy decisions. Dr. Title in favor of the policy and will support it. Mr. Fattibene questioned whether policy is mandatory. If so, he is not in favor because it sets a tone of over policing. In favor of better guidance and support. Mr. Fattibene indicated, “Our job is to teach them to behave appropriately. This policy is a crutch to avoid our obligation to teach proper behavior.” Discussion of administrative discretion and notice requirements that would allow breathalyzers at events other than dances without attempting to provide an exhaustive list of possibilities. If possible, administration might lend context to policy by reviewing curricular and program issues that lend education in addition to the RYASAP survey at the BOE meeting. High school administrators shared perspective. Public comment supported giving students a tool to use to avoid peer pressure. Also suggested that mandatory be made explicit in the policy. The group suggested a change in the word “endorsed” to “required”. Committee agreed to move the policy to the Board for a vote on September 28, 2010.

- III. By-Laws- Meeting Agenda - Tabled
- IV. CABA Policy audit - Tabled
- V. Curriculum – None discussed
- VI. Open Discussion – October meetings cancelled
- VII. Adjournment – 9:00 AM
- VIII. Future agenda – Next meeting November 3, 2010