

BOE Policy Committee Minutes
Wednesday, September 1, 2021 9:15 AM – 10:15 AM
Municipal Building, BOE Conference Meeting Room
3 Primrose St, Newtown, CT 06470

CALL TO ORDER Meeting was called to order at 9:15 a.m.

IN ATTENDANCE Rebekah Harriman-Stites, Dan Cruson, Lorrie Rodrigue, Suzanne D’Eramo, Susan Small

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

APPROVE MINUTES Rebekah Harriman-Stites made a motion to approve the minutes of June 23, 2021. Dan Cruson seconded. Motion was unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion and possible action:

Item	Reports
<p>Policy 6114.8 – Pandemic/Epidemic Emergencies The committee reviewed this policy and made the decision to make no changes to the policy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K. June will send this policy to the BOE.
<p>Policy 6172.61 – Distance Learning Plan Due to Health and Safety School Closure The committee reviewed this policy and made the decision to make no changes to the policy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K. June will send this policy to the BOE.
<p>Policy 4118.237/4218.237/5141.8 – Face Masks/Coverings The committee agreed to the following Policy edits: The first sentence will change the word “COVID-19” to <i>a public health emergency</i>. The next change is as follows, “As such, and in accordance with requirements and guidelines issued by <i>a federal authority or the Governor of the State of Connecticut or their designated authority</i>, the Board requires...an appropriate face covering.” This change will also be reflected in the Regulation. The addendums listed under Legal References will be removed. The Committee agreed to remove the following sentence from the Important Note: “In addition, for anyone suffering from any of these underlying conditions, the strong recommendation would be for that person to remain at home and engage in fully virtual learning due to their risk of developing severe complications if they did become infected with COVID-19.” The Committee agreed to remove the following</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S. Small will make the approved edits and send to K. June for BOE review.

<p>sentence from the last bullet point: “School district personnel supervising students shall only permit a face covering break when individuals who are indoors or outdoors are a minimum of 6 feet apart whenever possible or other District approved mitigating measures (such as physical barriers) have been implemented.” The beginning of the next sentence will read: <i>Protective</i> measures would be implemented whenever possible, such measures <i>may</i> include...individuals.”</p>	
<p>Policy 4118.12 – Freedom of Speech L. Rodrigue brought a sample regulation to the committee for review. Committee agreed to strike from the third bullet point the words “or his/her parent or guardian” and “or parents”. Committee discussed the possible ramifications of paragraph three under Disciplinary Consequences referencing the Board’s right to require that an employee provide his/her user name and password in certain cases. L. Rodrigue will discuss this language with Shipman and Goodwin.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K. June will send this to BOE with Background Information and updated regulation.

UPDATE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Face masks are the biggest concern. L. Rodrigue reported feedback from parent email was good.

There is some flexibility that people seem to understand. No problems with students wearing masks.

Need to keep looking at data from medical personnel to guide schools in incrementally moving ahead.

Buses are improving overall, although Reed is experiencing some delays.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

ADJOURNMENT Rebekah Harriman-Stites made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dan Cruson

seconded. Motion was unanimously approved. Meeting was adjourned at 10:21 a.m.