

BOE Policy Committee Minutes
Wednesday, November 15, 2023, 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm
Municipal Building, BOE Conference Room
3 Primrose St. Newtown, CT 06470

CALL TO ORDER Meeting was called to order at 9:02 am

IN ATTENDANCE Dan Cruson, Deborra Zukowski, Todd Higgins, Chris Melillo, Mark Pompano, Matt Memoli, Sarah Connell

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

APPROVE MINUTES Dan Cruson made a motion to approve the minutes of October 25, 2023. Deborra Zukowski seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion and possible action:

Item	Reports
<p>Policy 1700 – Possession of Firearms or Deadly Weapons</p> <p>T. Higgins explained to the committee that he used Newtown’s existing policy and redlined it. He stated that the majority of the edits came from the model policy that M. Pompano originally provided. He noted that the model policy did not have a definition for school transportation and he did not feel comfortable creating a definition without more thorough research. He also noted that the model policy did not include an exception section referencing Off-Duty Qualified Law Enforcement Officers. He opted to include that language along with the “catch all” section (section D). T. Higgins stated that he believes it is better to make the language regarding the MOU more generic because the BOE has to approve and the MOU may change throughout the years.</p> <p>C. Melillo stated they send this policy to Chief Kullgren for his input and the Chief will be joining the meeting to discuss any concerns over the language.</p> <p>D. Zukowski expressed concerns that off-duty from other towns could possibly lose their jobs for not knowing Newtown’s MOU.</p> <p>Chief Kullgren arrived and stated that the MOU protects any off-duty officer that has a weapon on school grounds from the moment they enter the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S. Connell will send this policy to Shipman and Goodwin for their review. • This policy will go to the BOE for first read in December.

<p>property until something happens that they would need to intervene.</p> <p>The committee agreed that is important to remove “Newtown” from Section C (Off-Duty Qualified Newtown Law Enforcement Officers) so it can protect off-duty police officers from other towns. This will make the policy more consistent with the existing MOU.</p> <p>D. Zukowski suggested including a “sign off sheet” for police officers to sign to make them aware of this MOU. The Chief is comfortable with including that.</p> <p>D. Cruson asked to remove the word “Deadly” before Firearms from the title. The committee agreed.</p> <p>The committee is happy with the edits made to this policy and S. Connell will send it to Shipman and Goodwin for their review and recommendations.</p>	
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NEW BUSINESS

Discussion and possible action:

Item	Reports
<p>Policy 1314/1324 – Fundraising and Solicitation</p> <p>M. Memoli, Newtown Athletic Director, joined the committee to discuss possible edits made to this policy. D. Zukowski stated that she made edits to the section “Athletics 7 -12” to make it easier to read.</p> <p>M. Memoli said that this policy was revised in 2017 and it does not appear to be consistent with Newtown’s current practices.</p> <p>The committee agreed to edit the 3rd bullet to now say <i>“Students’ participation or lack thereof <u>in a fundraising activity</u> shall not affect their play time or standing on said team or group.”</i></p> <p>T. Higgins wants to make sure that every fundraiser covers the entire team and every student has every opportunity.</p> <p>The committee agreed to remove the regulation from this policy and bring this back to the next policy meeting and new committee.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion and Possible Action • S. Connell will request fundraiser policies from CABE and Shipman and Goodwin
<p>Policy 1325 – Advertising and Promotion</p> <p>M. Memoli explained that an advertising company denied a company the right to advertise on Newtown’s score board. That situation prompted the committee to review this policy.</p> <p>The committee agreed to remove “1. Utilize instructional aids furnished by private sources that</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion and Possible Action

<p><i>complement approve District curriculum when the advertising content is reasonable in the judgement of the Superintendent.”</i></p>	
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T. Higgins suggests tightening the scope of this policy.

The committee agreed to remove “*with at least a super majority of 5 votes*” from the last sentence on the first page.

The committee agreed to remove the regulation from this policy and bring this back to the next policy meeting and new committee.

D. Cruson made a motion to move Policy 1700 to the Board at their December 5th meeting pending review from legal counsel. T. Higgins seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

UPDATE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Melillo reported that he will be traveling to the Teacher of the Year ceremony that evening. He will be representing Newtown along with Newtown’s Teacher of the Year, Jason Edwards. He is looking forward to the event.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Cruson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. T. Higgins seconded. Motion was unanimously approved. Meeting was adjourned at 1:37p.m.