



Minutes
POLICY COMMITTEE
Avon Board of Education
34 Simsbury, Avon, Connecticut 06001
Via Zoom
Monday, December 13, 2022 – 5:00 p.m.

Attendance

Members Present: Laura Young, Chair; Lisa Seminara; Sarah Thompson

Member(s) Absent: Thej Singh

Administration Present: Dr. Bridget Heston Carnemolla, Superintendent of Schools; Jess Giannini, Assistant Superintendent; Roberto Medic, Assistant Superintendent

Others Present: Deb Chute, Ex Officio; Shirley Moy and Christine Sardinkas, Recording Secretaries; Maggie Dreher, Director of Nutrition Services; Lynn Katz, Board Member

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by Committee Chair, Laura Young.

II. Approval of September 19, 2022 Minutes

Lisa Seminara moved to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2022 Policy Committee meeting, Sarah Thompson seconded.

The motion passed 3-0-0

III. Communication from Public

There was no communication from the public.

IV. New Business – Items for Review and Discussion

a. Policy 5000s – Physical Activity, Undirected Play and Student Discipline

- Adopt Shipman & Goodwin Model Policy

Dr. Carnemolla explained this is a new required policy with pieces that exist in the District's current wellness policy; it is under the advice of Shipman & Goodwin to keep the two policies separate. This policy specifically delineates the concept of restricting free play or recess as a form of discipline; to generally not withhold physical activity as a punishment unless absolutely necessary, such as when the child is a danger to him/herself or others. Dr. Carnemolla clarified that by adopting the policy it makes clear that the philosophy is that we should not be utilizing the withholding of recess as discipline except under limited circumstances. Recess is an important time for students to release physical energy and get exercise; teachers should consider something else as punishment when the circumstances warrant it. Mr. Giannini added that the consequences should be connected to the behavior. Undirected play time is an important component for children and should not be taken away from children if possible.

Laura Young moved to bring forward to the full Board Policy 5144.4 Physical Activity, Undirected Play and Student Discipline as presented to the full Board, for a first read and possible action to adopt this new policy, Lisa Seminara seconded.

The motion passed 4-0-0

b. Policy 5000s – Wellness

- Adopt Shipman & Goodwin Model Policy
- Delete Current Policy 6142.10 – Wellness

Dr. Carnemolla explained that this is the Wellness policy mentioned and speaks of required physical activity for students and also relates to nutrition education goals and guidelines. Mr. Dreher stated that Avon is CT Healthy Food Certified which means the District follows the strictest food guidelines, which is beyond Smart Foods and already works with local food farms as mentioned in the policy. Dr. Carnemolla added that the District has a Wellness Committee that meets once a year to review the suggestions of guidelines. The triennial assessment is now a requirement which the District has already conducted with the results on the District website. Ms. Dreher also spoke of food and candy fundraisers regulations and that fundraisers must be approved by administrators. Dr. Carnemolla explained that while the adoption of this policy is decided by the Board it is up to the Wellness Committee to review and include the suggested guidelines. Ms. Dreher added that administrators, phys ed teachers, nurses, parents and students will make up the committee with a letter being sent out in January asking for participants. The committee has not met since the pandemic but will resume shortly and meet three times a year.

Laura Young moved to bring forward to the full Board Policy 6142.10 – Wellness as presented to the full Board, for a first read and possible action to adopt, Sarah Thompson seconded.

The motion passed 3-0-0.

Laura Young moved to bring forward to the full Board current Policy 6142.10 – Wellness as presented to the full Board, for deletion, Lisa Seminara seconded.

The motion passed 4-0-0.

c. Policy 5000s – Meal Charging

- Adopt Shipman & Goodwin Model Policy

Ms. Dreher informed the Committee that a law was passed regarding lunch charging and procedures that were to be followed such as never refusing a student lunch and conversations of low balances are not to be addressed to students but to parents. This new policy is to comply with the new law. Dr. Carnemolla added that the previous policy was last reviewed and adopted in 2015 with only two lines; it is recommended to delete the current policy and replace it with the new policy that lists everything that is now required by law. Ms. Dreher explained there will be processes set up to address low balances before it is brought to the homeless liaison as stated in the policy.

Laura Young moved to bring forward to the full Board Policy 3542.43 – Meal Charging as presented to the full Board, for a first read and possible action to replace current Policy 3542.43, Lisa Seminara seconded.

The motion passed 3-0-0.

d. Policy 5145 Section 504: Civil and Legal Rights and Responsibilities

- Adopt Shipman & Goodwin Model Policy
- Replace Current Board Policy

Dr. Carnemolla explained that Section 504, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and Title II Act are all Federal laws related to student services; having a policy on this is necessary to be a reflection of the law. By law every district must have a policy that speaks to what is required regarding this such as prohibiting discrimination against individuals with disabilities; recognizing that we need to avoid discrimination in policies and practices; and make reasonable accommodations. It is recommended to delete the current policy which does not

have the necessary legal language and has not been reviewed since 2015. The recommended policy covers the District legally regarding Section 504 and regulations associated with the Americans with Disabilities Act. It also gives information on how to make a complaint which is required by law. Dr. Carnemolla clarified that all forms are part of the regulations and will be reviewed and updated with the new policy. The Committee asked that the forms be brought back for review. The Committee asked if there were a mechanism to ensure all students with disabilities were given equal opportunities for activities to which Dr. Carnemolla replied that determinations were made during a 504 or IEP to how best to accommodate student needs with a particular activity. The new policy protects students better than the current one as it speaks more to accommodating students and not just identify them.

Laura Young moved to bring forward to the full Board Policy 5145 – Section 504 of The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of The Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990 as presented to the full Board, for a first read and possible action to replace current Policy 5145, Sarah Thompson seconded.

The motion passed 3-0-0.

e. Policy 5141.4 – Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect

- Adopt Shipman & Goodwin Model Policy
- Replace Current Board Policy

Dr. Carnemolla explained that the Shipman model policy was recommended because the policy states the updated laws and codifies what the District already does, also, the current policy has not been updated since 2017. The recommendation is to replace the District's current policy with Shipman's model policy.

Laura Young moved to bring forward to the full Board Policy 5141.4 – Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect as presented to the full Board, for a first read and possible action to replace current Policy 5141.4, Sarah Thompson seconded.

The motion passed 3-0-0.

f. Policy 5141.22 Administration of Student Medications in the Schools

- Revise

Dr. Carnemolla asked to table the policy.

Laura Young moved to table Policy 5141.22 Administration of Student Medications in the Schools, Lisa Seminara seconded.

The motion passed 4-0-0

g. Policy 5113 – School Attendance

- Revise

Dr. Carnemolla stated that there were only slight revisions in the current policy which were listed under the laws of the policy; the rest of the revisions had to do with the regulations. The Superintendent also addressed mental health days as an excused absence but also triggers schools to check in with the student when he/she returns, which is also why it is important students not take two mental health days in a row. The policy has not changed, just the laws associated and the regulations.

Laura Young moved to bring forward to the full Board Policy 5113 – School Attendance as presented to the full Board, for a first read and possible action to adopt the policy with revisions, Sarah Thompson seconded.

The motion passed 3-0-0.

V. Future Items for Review

- a. School Volunteers & Parent Involvement
Policy 5141.22 Administration of Student Medications in the Schools will be added to next Policy Committee agenda for discussion.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 6:02 pm.

Minutes prepared by Shirley Moy, Recording Secretary

Minutes respectfully submitted by Laura Young, Policy Committee Chair

Laura Young, December 19, 2022

Minutes respectfully received by Jeffrey S. Fleischman, Board Secretary

Jeffrey S. Fleischman, December 19, 2022

Minutes are approved at the next Policy meeting, and any corrections to the minutes, if needed, will be made at that time.