

# The Board of Education Town of Vernon

30 Park Street – PO Box 600  
Vernon, Connecticut 06066

Anne Fischer, Chairperson  
Mark Kalina, Vice Chairperson  
Stephen Linton, Secretary  
Patricia Buxton, Treasurer  
Jennifer Buckler  
Kevin Brown  
Deborah Rodriguez  
Mason Thrall  
Kristiana Wintress

February 24, 2021

## APPROVED MINUTES BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

A Policy Committee meeting of the Vernon Board of Education was held on Wednesday, February 24, 2021.

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Fischer at 6:02 PM. Present when the meeting was called to order were Mrs. Fischer, Dr. Buxton, Ms. Wintress, Mrs. Rodriguez (via Zoom), and Dr. Macary.

The Vernon Board of Education has completed the three-year task of reviewing the Board's entire Policy Manual. It is now time for the Policy Committee to begin again to review our entire Policy Manual.

### **Dr. Buxton was assigned the following policies to review:**

**0000 Philosophy of Education for Vernon Public Schools** – The committee suggested that the Board's Core Beliefs be added to this policy. It will be added at the beginning of the policy and the rest of the policy will remain unchanged. Mrs. Rodriguez made the motion to recommend to the full Board for approval the revisions as discussed. Ms. Wintress seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**0001 Mission Statement** – There were no changes suggested for this policy. It will be marked as reviewed.

**0200 Goals** - There were no changes suggested for this policy. It will be marked as reviewed.

**0210 Goals/Objectives for Student Accomplishment** – The suggestion was to replace this current policy with our Vision Statement and define all skills and characteristics in the Vision. In addition, the committee recommended that the title of this policy be changed to **Vision of the Board of Education**. Dr. Buxton made the motion to recommend to the full Board for approval the revisions as discussed. Mrs. Rodriguez seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**0521 Nondiscrimination** – Dr. Buxton suggested that several paragraphs from CAFE's sample policy be included in our existing policy. Our first paragraph will be replaced by CAFE's first paragraph and two other paragraphs from CAFE's policy will be added in the appropriate places to our current policy. Mrs. Fischer made the motion to recommend to the full Board for approval the revisions as discussed. Ms. Wintress seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

# The Board of Education Town of Vernon

30 Park Street – PO Box 600  
Vernon, Connecticut 06066

Anne Fischer, Chairperson  
Mark Kalina, Vice Chairperson  
Stephen Linton, Secretary  
Patricia Buxton, Treasurer  
Jennifer Buckler  
Kevin Brown  
Deborah Rodriguez  
Mason Thrall  
Kristiana Wintress

February 24, 2021

**0523 Equity and Diversity (NEW)** – Since the Board recently developed an Equity Stance and a Diversity Statement the committee would like these two documents in a policy. Thus, the committee is suggesting the addition of this policy to our policy manual. Mrs. Rodriguez made the motion to recommend to the full Board for approval the addition of this policy as discussed. Dr. Buxton seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. This policy will be on the agenda of the next BOE meeting for review by the Board. Final approval on this added policy will be requested at the subsequent meeting after that.

**Mrs. Rodriguez was assigned the following policies to review:**

**1000 Board of Education Role in Communication with the Public** - There were no changes suggested for this policy. It will be marked as reviewed.

**1110.1 Parent/Guardian Participation** – Minor revisions were suggested for this policy. Mrs. Fischer made the motion to recommend to the full Board for approval the revisions as discussed. Mrs. Rodriguez seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**1120 Public Participation in Board of Education Meetings** – Minor revisions were suggested for this policy, in particular, to ensure that the policy language is the same as the language in the Board's Rules of Procedure. Dr. Buxton made the motion to recommend to the full Board for approval the revisions as discussed. Ms. Wintress seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**1140 Community Relations** – Revisions were suggested. Ms. Wintress made the motion to recommend to the full Board for approval the revisions as discussed. Mrs. Rodriguez seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**1146 Recognition of Students, Citizens, Staff and Board of Education Members** – Revisions were suggested for this policy. Mrs. Rodriguez made the motion to recommend to the full Board for approval the revisions as discussed. Dr. Buxton seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Mrs. Fischer was assigned the following policies to review:**

# The Board of Education

## Town of Vernon

30 Park Street – PO Box 600  
Vernon, Connecticut 06066

Anne Fischer, Chairperson  
Mark Kalina, Vice Chairperson  
Stephen Linton, Secretary  
Patricia Buxton, Treasurer  
Jennifer Buckler  
Kevin Brown  
Deborah Rodriguez  
Mason Thrall  
Kristiana Wintress

February 24, 2021

**1210 School Community Organizations** – Minimal revisions were suggested for this policy. Mrs. Fischer made the motion to recommend to the full Board for approval the revisions as discussed. Ms. Wintress seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**1212 School Volunteers** – Mrs. Fischer suggested that language be added to this policy to address the procedures established for securing and screening volunteers. Mrs. Rodriguez made the motion to recommend to the full Board for approval the revisions as discussed. Dr. Buxton seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**1220 Citizen's Advisory Committees to the BOE** – Minor revisions were suggested for this policy. In addition, the committee believed that the title of the policy should be changed to **Ad Hoc Advisory Committees to the Board of Education**. Dr. Buxton made the motion to recommend to the full Board for approval the revisions as discussed. Ms. Wintress seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**1250 School Visitors** – Revisions were recommended for this policy. Mrs. Fischer made the motion to recommend to the full Board for approval the revisions as discussed. Dr. Buxton seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**1251 Trespassing, Loitering or Causing Disturbances** – Many revisions were suggested for this policy. Mrs. Rodriguez made the motion to recommend to the full Board for approval the revisions as discussed. Mrs. Fischer seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Dr. Macary noted that the Vernon Board of Education has regulations and has provided the appropriate training in regards to Title IX but does not have Title IX policies.**

Dr. Macary will contact our Special Education Attorney, Craig Meuser, and request he develop policy #4118.112 (Sexual Discrimination/Harassment). In addition, he will be asked to develop policy #5145.4 (Nondiscrimination) which should encompass all appropriate language from policies #5145.42 (Racial Harassment of Students), #5145.44 (Employee Harassment of Students), and #5145.51 (Student Peer Sexual Harassment). The committee thought that there was no need to have 4 four separate policies that will have such similar language. This new policy should be titled **Nondiscrimination – Title IX** with specific sections covering Racial Harassment, Employee Harassment of Students, and Student Peer Sexual Harassment.

**The Board of Education  
Town of Vernon**

30 Park Street – PO Box 600  
Vernon, Connecticut 06066

Anne Fischer, Chairperson  
Mark Kalina, Vice Chairperson  
Stephen Linton, Secretary  
Patricia Buxton, Treasurer  
Jennifer Buckler  
Kevin Brown  
Deborah Rodriguez  
Mason Thrall  
Kristiana Wintress

February 24, 2021

**Mrs. Iles was asked to review the following policies:**

**6159 Individualized Education Program/Special Education Program** – This policy sparked lots of discussion and the committee requested that more research be done before any decisions on this policy are determined.

**6171 Special Education** - This policy sparked lots of discussion and the committee requested that more research be done before any decisions on this policy are determined.

The following policies have been assigned to committee members for review at the next policy committee meeting:

Dr. Buxton #1251.1; #1300.1; #1311; #1312; #1321

Mrs. Rodriguez #1322; #1324; #1325; #1330; #1331

Ms. Wintress #1340; #1411; #1412; #1416; #1500

Mrs. Fischer #2000; #2000.1; #2001; #2100; #2111

The next Policy Committee meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, March 31, 2021. The committee will meet at 6:00 PM in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room.

Dr. Buxton made the motion to adjourn at 9:12 PM. Mrs. Rodriguez seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Stephen Linton, Board Secretary