

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

March 31, 2021

APPROVED MINUTES BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

A Policy Committee meeting of the Vernon Board of Education was held on Wednesday, March 31, 2021.

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Fischer at 6:00 PM. Present when the meeting was called to order were Mrs. Fischer, Dr. Buxton, Ms. Wintress, Mrs. Rodriguez (via Zoom), and Dr. Macary.

Dr. Buxton was assigned the following policies to review:

1251.1 Weapons and Prohibited Instruments – CAFE's policy 1251.1 is completely different than our policy. CAFE's policy is about Loitering and Causing a Disturbance. However, CAFE's policy 1316 (Conduct on School Property) is the closest to our current policy. The committee will reread these policies and determine at our next meeting what we should recommend to the full Board.

1300.1 Community Engagement – Dr. Buxton suggested that language from CAFE's sample policy be incorporated into our current policy. 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.

1311.1 Political Activities of School Employees - There were no changes suggested for this policy. It will be marked as reviewed.

1312 Request from Public for Problem Resolution – One minor revision was suggested. Dr. Buxton made the motion to recommend to the full Board for approval the revision as discussed. Mrs. Rodriguez seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

1321 Public Performances by Students – There were no changes suggested for this policy. It will be marked as reviewed.

Mrs. Rodriguez was assigned the following policies to review:

1322 Student Contests and Competitions – One minor revision was suggested. Ms. Wintress made the motion to recommend to the full Board for approval the revision as discussed. Dr. Buxton seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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1324 Soliciting Funds from or by Students – There were no changes suggested for this policy. It will be marked as reviewed.

1325 Advertising and Promotions/Distribution of Information – There were no changes suggested for this policy. It will be marked as reviewed.

1330 Use of School Facilities – One minor revision was suggested as well as adding references. Ms. Wintress made a motion to recommend to the full Board for approval the revisions as discussed. Dr. Buxton seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

1331 Smoke Free Environment - One minor revision was suggested as well as adding references. 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. Two of our current policies (4118.231 and 5131.6) align with this policy. Therefore, the committee was asked to review both of those policies for our next meeting to ensure that all three of these policies align.

Ms. Wintress was assigned the following policies to review:

1340 Access to School Procedures and Materials – Revisions were suggested 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.

1411 School System and Law Enforcement Agency Cooperation – 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

1412 School System and Fire Department Cooperation – One minor revision was suggested. Dr. Buxton made the motion to recommend to the full Board for approval the revision as discussed. Ms. Wintress seconded the motion and it passed unanimously

1416 School System and Fiscal Authority Cooperation – Revisions were recommended 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.

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1500 School System Cooperation with Area, State, Regional, and National Associations – Minor 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.

Mrs. Fischer was assigned the following policies to review:

2000 Basic Concepts of Administration - There were no changes suggested for this policy. It will be marked as reviewed.

2000.1 Board/Superintendent Relationship and Administrative Structure – It was suggested by Mrs. Fischer that language from CABA's Governance Statement be added to the beginning of this policy to emphasize the importance of the relationship between the Board and the Superintendent and to reiterate that a good relationship produces positive results for all students. 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.

2001 Participatory Management Philosophy - There were no changes suggested for this policy. It will be marked as reviewed.

2100 Administrative Staff Organization – Minor revisions were suggested for this policy. In addition, it was suggested that the District Organizational Chart be added as an appendix to this policy. Dr. Buxton made the motion to recommend to the full Board for approval the revisions as discussed. Mr. Rodriguez seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

2111 Equal Employment Opportunities – 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.

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 contacted our Special Education Attorney, Craig Meuser, and requested he develop policy #5145.4 (Nondiscrimination) which would 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

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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.

5145.4 Nondiscrimination Title IX – Mr. Meuser prepared this revised policy so there were significant changes to our current policy #5145.4. Dr. Macary was asked to make the policy gender neutral and to rework it so it is in outline form. 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.

Mrs. Iles was asked to review the following policies:

6159 Individualized Education Program/Special Education Program – Mrs. Iles suggested revised language to this policy to conform with new State laws. 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.

6171 Special Education - Mrs. Iles suggested revised language to this policy to conform with new State laws. 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.

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

Dr. Buxton #2112; #2120; #2130; #2131; #2141

Mrs. Rodriguez #2210; #2231; #2250; #2300; #2400; #2500

Ms. Wintress #3000; #3010; #3111; #3120; #3150

Mrs. Fischer #3160; #3231; #3240; #3250; #3260; #3280; #3290

The next Policy Committee meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, May 5, 2021. The committee will meet at 6:00 PM in the 2nd floor conference room.

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Ms. Wintress made the motion to adjourn at 8:24 PM. Mrs. Rodriguez seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Stephen Linton, Board Secretary