

The Board of Education

Town of Vernon

30 Park Street – PO Box 600
Vernon, Connecticut 06066

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

November 30, 2022

APPROVED MINUTES

BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

A Policy Committee meeting of the Vernon Board of Education was held on Wednesday, November 30, 2022.

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Buxton at 6:00 PM. Present when the meeting was called to order were Dr. Buxton, Mrs. Fischer, Mr. Linton, Mr. Brown, and Dr. Macary.

Public Forum – There was no public comment.

Student Presentation – Giana Minier came to represent the Class of 2023 in regards to seniors decorating their graduation caps. She brought three of her fellow classmates (Victoria Mitchell, Michaela Major, and Olivia Reagan) with her to share more information with the committee. These students provided a petition signed by over 100 students who would not only want to decorate their caps but who are also willing to follow the parameters set for decorating the caps. Parameters discussed were:

- 1) Students would hand in a sketch to Administration of what they were planning to put on their caps by a certain date (suggestion of June 1)
- 2) Students must agree to not make any changes once the Administration has approved the sketch
- 3) There would be no 3D items on cap. It would be 2-Dimensional with nothing hanging off the cap
- 4) Words and/or marks would be positive and respectful
- 5) There would be no racial slurs
- 6) The caps would be handed into RHS Administration or to the students' advisors on the day of graduation
- 7) When the students returned the night of Graduation, they would be given back their caps
- 8) A committee of students would be willing to help administration/advisors monitor the sketches and the caps
- 9) This will be exclusively for the class of 2023

When the students were asked what the consequence should be if these regulations were not followed, their response was “Those kids do not walk”.

The committee was impressed with their presentation and the fact that they were willing to be a part of the implementation of this plan. Having students work with and/or monitor their peers is very powerful. Dr. Macary will compile this information to be shared with the entire Board resulting in a possible vote for approval.

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Dr. Buxton was assigned the following policies to review:

5131.3 Student Driving and Parking - Dr. Buxton suggested changes to this policy. Mr. Linton made the motion that we recommend to the full Board for approval the revisions suggested. Mrs. Fischer seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

5131.5 Vandalism - Dr. Buxton suggested minor changes to this policy. Mr. Brown made the motion that we recommend to the full Board for approval the revisions suggested. Mr. Linton seconded the motion and it passed unanimously

5131.6 Alcohol Use, Drugs and Tobacco - Dr. Buxton suggested significant additions based on language from CABE's sample policy. Mr. Linton made the motion that we recommend to the full Board for approval the revisions suggested. Mr. Brown seconded the motion and it passed unanimously

5131.7 Weapons and Dangerous Instruments – Dr. Buxton suggested changes to this policy. Mr. Brown made the motion that we recommend to the full Board for approval the revisions suggested. Mrs. Fischer seconded the motion and it passed unanimously

Mrs. Fischer was assigned the following policies to review:

5131.8 Out of School Misconduct – Many revisions were suggested for this policy based on changes in the law and language recommended by CABE. Dr. Buxton made the motion that we recommend to the full Board for approval the revisions as suggested. Mr. Linton seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

5131.81 Electronic Devices – CABE's sample policy has additional language that Vernon currently does not have or address. Dr. Macary will bring this policy to our technology personnel for their input. Their suggestions will be brought before the committee at our next policy meeting.

5131.82 Use of Electronic Devices – This policy was deleted in 2019. Therefore, there was no need to review this.

5131.9 Gang Activity or Association - No revisions were suggested for this policy. It will be marked as reviewed.

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Mr. Brown was assigned the following policies to review:

5118 Non-Resident Students – Some revisions were made to this policy. Mr. Linton made the motion that we recommend to the full Board for approval the revisions suggested. Mrs. Fischer seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

5118.1 Homeless Students – Minor changes were suggested for this policy. Mrs. Fischer made the motion that we recommend to the full Board for approval the revisions suggested. Dr. Buxton seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

5124 Reporting to Parents/Guardians - No revisions were suggested for this policy. It will be marked as reviewed.

5125 Student Record Confidentiality – Mr. Brown suggested adding much of the language from CABA's sample policy. Mr. Linton made the motion that we recommend to the full Board for approval the revisions suggested. Dr. Buxton seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Linton was assigned the following policies to review:

5131.911 Bullying Behavior in School – Due to changes in the law with regard to this policy, the committee needs to revisit this policy at the next policy meeting.

5132 Dress and Grooming - No revisions were suggested for this policy. It will be marked as reviewed.

5135 Married/Pregnant Students - No revisions were suggested for this policy. It will be marked as reviewed.

5141 Student Health Services – One suggestion was to replace our current language with CABA's language for this policy and another suggestion was to ask our Nurse Supervisor to review this policy. The consensus was to ask our Nurse Supervisor to review this policy. Dr. Macary will contact Mrs. Peggy Stickel to review this policy.

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Dr. Macary brought these policies to the committee:

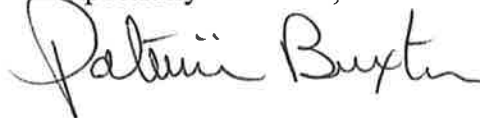
5114 Suspension, Expulsion and Due Process – At the last policy meeting the committee requested that this policy be referred to the Board attorney. Dr. Macary shared the recommended revisions as suggested by Mr. Dorsey, the Board’s attorney. Mr. Dorsey advised changing the policy to language that will not have to be revised yearly as often has been the case. He rewrote it and recommended that by using this suggested language the Board/Administration would only have to change regulations whenever new laws are adopted rather than changing the policy itself. Mrs. Fischer made the motion to recommend to the full Board for approval this change as proposed. Mr. Brown seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

5145.511 Sexual Abuse Prevention and Education Program – Dr. Macary had asked Mr. Dorsey to review and revise this policy. It was the consensus of the committee to accept Mr. Dorsey’s suggestions. Mrs. Fischer made the motion to recommend to the full Board for approval this change as proposed. Mr. Linton seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The next meeting of the policy committee is scheduled for Wednesday, March 1, 2023 at 6:00 PM.

Mr. Linton made the motion to adjourn at 7:30 PM. Mr. Brown seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Patricia Buxton, Board Secretary