

BOARD OF EDUCATION
FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
FAIRFIELD, CT

Policy Committee Meeting
Tuesday, February 27, 2018
5:00 PM
501 Kings Highway East
Superintendent's Conference Room

Agenda

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of February 2, 2018 Minutes
- III. Discussion of 1311.1/1311.2 Political Activities of School Employees in School/On
School Property
- IV. Social Media Policy Update
- V. Homework and Vacation Discussion
- VI. Future Items
 - a. Booster Clubs
 - b. Corporate Sponsorship
 - c. High School Graduation Requirements
 - d. Board of Education Handbook
 - e. Student Discipline Policies - Expulsion
- VII. Open Discussion/Public Comment
- VIII. Adjournment

Future Meetings: March 6, March 27

All meetings will be held at 501 Kings Highway East, Superintendent's Conference Room
Unless otherwise noted.

BOARD OF EDUCATION
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Policy Committee Meeting
Tuesday, February 6, 2018
5:00 PM
501 Kings Highway East
Superintendent's Conference Room

Minutes

Call to Order 5:00

Present: Mike Cummings, Colleen Deasy, Jennifer Maxon-Kennelly, Jennifer Jacobsen, Jeff Peterson

Approval of January 30, 2018 Minutes

- Approved 3-0, with edits

High school graduation requirements update

- Mr. Cummings outlined different factors under consideration in reviewing and refining the high school graduation requirements
- April 3, 2018 the staff will present initial draft of new graduation requirements to the policy committee
- March 17, 2018 will be reviewing the "portrait of a graduate," which is a broader view of what we would like graduates of FPS to look like

Discussion of 1311.1/1311.2 Political Activities of School Employees in School/On School Property

- 1311.1 approved to go to full board; 3-0

- 1311.2 approved to go to full board; 3-0

Discussion of 5144.1 Seclusion and Restraint

- 5144.1 approved to go to full board; 3-0

Social Media Policy

- Ms. Deasy gave an overview of the work that a staff committee has done in reviewing an ideal social media policy
- While there is one particular draft policy that was previously identified by the staff committee as preferable, it does not address all issues that may need to be considered by a social media policy
- Ms. Deasy will bring the policy committee's feedback back to the staff committee to review

Open Discussion/Public Comment

Adjournment: Vote to adjourn at 6:41 PM

Community Relations

Political Activities of School Employees

District employees shall be entitled to full rights of citizenship, and no political activities of any employee or the lack thereof shall be grounds for any discipline or discrimination with respect to the employment of such employee providing such activities do not interfere with the performance of the employee's duties or the District's business.

Performance of Civic Duties by Employees

Employees are encouraged to perform their civic duties commensurate with democratic ideals. These duties may include:

- A. Voting and taking an interest in current social, political, and economic issues.
- B. Exercising democratic rights and responsibilities shared with other citizens. These rights and privileges may include:
 - 1. Electioneering for candidates off school grounds, except on an election day;
 - 2. Accepting positions in political campaigns;
 - 3. Holding an office in a political party organization; and/or
 - 4. Serving as a delegate to political party conventions.

Individual Responsibility in Participating in Political Functions

- A. Employees engaging in political activities shall not:
 - 1. Engage in political activities on school premises during school hours or at school events;
 - 2. Involve their school, school property, and/or students in personal political campaigns;
 - 3. Distribute literature within schools or on school buses, including but not limited to electronic mail, supporting one or more candidates, nor shall campaign posters be displayed at or within the schools. Campaign material shall be used solely for educational purposes; or
 - 4. Poll their students to determine how their parents are voting on any issue, and shall not attempt to indoctrinate students with personal, political, or social philosophy.
- B. Employee's attendance at, or participation at, political or union activities during work time shall not take place without prior written approval of the administration.

Political Materials and/or Engagement as Part of the Instructional Program

Community Relations

Political Activities in the Schools/On School Board Property

1. Political Candidates/Issues

Debate or Forum: If a class or school-sponsored group plans a political debate or forum during the school day, the Principal/teacher/sponsor shall ensure that all candidates for the same public office or who have differing opinions on a political issue are given equal opportunity to participate.

Appearances: Elected politicians and political candidates are not allowed to appear at a school unless they are invited to visit or speak to a class or other school-related activity during school hours. However, they are entitled to the same rights of all citizens to visit the schools. The requirements for debates or forums are applicable and other candidates for the same public office should be invited to visit at the same time or be provided an equivalent opportunity.

Nothing in this policy shall preclude or prevent incumbent elected public officials from appearances on District property upon the invitation of the Superintendent, the Superintendent's designee or Principal provided that it is within their official capacity and not a campaign activity.

2. School Group Participation in Political Events

School groups may not participate in appearances that create an undue amount of interference with the regular school program or that cause an excessive amount of students' absences for rehearsal or preparation.

3. Use or Distribution of Political Materials During School Hours or on School Grounds

A. Interschool Mail: Any interschool or intraschool mail and/or email system may not be used to distribute any political materials to schools. A regular newsletter of an employee organization that is normally distributed by the District's/school's mail system will not be considered political material if it simply contains news of a political nature taken by the organization.

B. Political Materials: Any distribution of political materials by non-students, unless as part of an event scheduled in accordance with the school reservation process, is prohibited on school grounds and/or on school buses, except as allowed under this policy.

C. Student Elections: Students may post or distribute student-government election materials in an appropriate time, place, and manner, as determined by the Principal, so as to avoid any disruption to the learning environment.

D. Student distribution or display of political material that is disruptive of the educational

environment is not permitted.

- E. This policy should not be construed to limit citizens' political activity on an election day during polling hours in compliance with local ordinances or election law.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
7-421 Political activities of classified municipal employees.
7-421b Limitation on restriction of political rights of municipal employees.
9-369b Explanatory text relating to local questions.
10-156e Employees of boards of education permitted to serve as elected officials; exception.
10-239 Use of school facilities for other purposes
31-51q Liability of employer for discipline or discharge of employee on account of employee's exercise of certain constitutional rights.
Keyishian v. Board of Regents 395 U.S. 589, 603 (1967)
Academic Freedom Policy (adopted by Connecticut State Board of Education, 9/9/81)
Equal Access Act, 20 U.S.C. ss 4071-4074