

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
FAIRFIELD, CT

**Special Policy Committee  
Meeting  
Tuesday, April 23, 2019  
5:00 PM  
501 Kings Highway East  
Superintendent's Conference Room**

**Minutes**

- Meeting called to order 5:03 PM
  - Present were Jennifer Maxon-Kennelly, Jeff Peterson, Jennifer Jacobson, Greg Hatzis, David Ebling, Mike Cummings, Kristen Tozzo, 3 members of the public
  
- Policy
  - Homework Policy
    - The committee, Headmasters, and Chief Academic Officer discussed the tentative Homework Policy proposals.
    - Vacations: There may be some issues with no homework for AP classes around April break due to the testing schedule, so there will probably need to be some exceptions and will need more input.
    - Notification: Clarity of language will be important when defining “posted” and “modified.” “School day” will be changed to “the day of class.” All are in agreement that there should be no surprises over the weekend or in the evenings, as well as expecting teachers to explain, provide directions, how the work will be counted, due date and opportunity for clarification on the assignment in class. Three main ideas for this subgroup will be: Assigning, Modifying, and Access to Materials.
    - Grade Impact: There is concern over “formative assessment” and that it might be counterproductive if it’s graded. Discussed “What is the point of a grade?” A big issue is teacher consistency and that the expectation is the same across both high schools and at WFC. Future policy wording regarding this should not be prescriptive due to forthcoming graduation requirements. The definition of homework should be clear—what are we asking students to do? Mr. Hatzis has a lot of concern that there is too much focus on the grade and not on the learning. The formative impact on GPA percentages will change from original Policy Committee proposal, but will be factored into GPA.
  
- Public Comment
  - Anne Marie Harper, Parent: Without homework “counting”, students do not see the connection between practice and performance. There needs to be some accountability.
  - Sandra Tomlin, Parent: Homework is an expectation in her Physics class because

when the students do the homework they do better on the tests. Many of her students rely on their homework grade to help bring up their final grade if they don't do well on the tests.

- Maria Bogatikova, Parent: Supports homework being counted. Students need a system in place to build expected behaviors.
  
- Meeting adjourned 6:51 PM