

GARDNER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Policy Subcommittee

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 25, 2017

7:00 PM

Superintendent's Conference Room

70 Waterford Street, Gardner, MA

In Attendance: Mrs. Melody Phelps, Chair; Mrs. Anne Hurst; Mr. James Abare, Member

Absent:

Also in Attendance: Dr. Catherine Goguen, Chief Academic Officer; Mr. Andrew McKenzie, Athletic Director; Ms. Rebecca McCaffrey, School Nurse Leader

Mrs. Phelps, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

A motion was made by Ms. Hurst and seconded by Mrs. Phelps to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2016 and November 21, 2016 Policy Meetings. The motion passed unanimously.

The following policies were reviewed and determined that no changes were required. Therefore, these policies will be updated as "reviewed in January, 2017":

- Policy AA – School District Legal Status;
- Policy ACA – Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex;
- Policy ADC – Smoking on School Premises;

The following policies were tabled to the next Policy Subcommittee meeting:

- Policy DFG – Use of School Facilities and Equipment
- DFG-R – Regulations Governing Community Use of School Facilities

The following policies were reviewed and discussed for the purpose of updating discrimination language to include gender identity and to be consistent across all policies:

- Policy AC – Nondiscrimination;
- Policy GBA – Equal Opportunity Employment;
- Policy GBBA – Harassment;
- Policy GBE – Civil Rights;
- Policy GCE – Professional Staff Recruiting/Posting of Vacancies
- Policy GCF – Professional Staff Hiring

- Policy IJ – Instructional Materials
- Policy JB – Equal Educational Opportunities
- Policy JFBB – School Choice
- Policy JKD-R – Student Suspension/Expulsion Procedures

The language updated in each of the above-mentioned policies will now state that “Gardner Public Schools does not discriminate due to race, color, sex, gender identity, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, or age.” A motion was made by Ms. Hurst and seconded by Mrs. Phelps to send the policies with updated discrimination language to the February full School Committee Meeting for a first reading. The motion passed unanimously.

Policy ADF – Local Wellness Policy was reviewed and discussed. Ms. McCaffrey presented recommended minor grammatical changes and changes resulting from federal and state regulation updates regarding health and nutrition standards. A motion was made by Ms. Hurst and seconded by Mr. Abare to send the policy with all recommended revisions to the February full School Committee Meeting for a first reading. The motion passed unanimously.

Policy BBBE – Unexpired Term Fulfillment/Vacancies was reviewed and discussed. Two minor changes regarding punctuation were recommended. A motion was made by Mrs. Phelps and seconded by Mr. Abare to send the policy with recommended revisions to the February full School Committee Meeting for a first reading. The motion passed unanimously.

Policy JJD – Athletics was reviewed and discussed. One minor change regarding adding a missing word was recommended. A motion was made by Mrs. Phelps and seconded by Ms. Hurst to send the policy with recommended revisions to the February full School Committee Meeting for a first reading. The motion passed unanimously.

The next Policy Subcommittee meeting will be held on Monday, March 20, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. in the Superintendent’s Conference Room.

A motion was made by Ms. Hurst and seconded by Mrs. Phelps to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.