

GARDNER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Policy Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 21, 2021
6:30 PM

Superintendent's Office
70 Waterford Street, Gardner, MA 01440

In Attendance: Mrs. Anne Hurst, Chair; Mrs. Rachel Cormier, Member; Mrs. Jennifer Pelavin, Member

Absent:

Also in Attendance: Dr. Catherine Goguen, Chief Academic Officer;

ZOOM Participants: Ms. Courtney Dunn, Grants/Compliance/Communications Coordinator; Ms. Brenda Smith, Superintendent's Secretary; Ms. Rebecca McCaffrey, Director of Health Services; Ms. Joyce West, Director of Pupil Personnel Services

Mrs. Hurst called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

A motion was made by Mrs. Cormier and seconded by Mrs. Pelavin to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2021 Policy Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

The following policies were reviewed and determined that no changes were required. Therefore, the policies will be updated as "Reviewed September, 2021":

- Policy BG – School Committee Policy Development
- Policy JRA – Student Records

Policy BDFA – School Councils was reviewed and discussed. The Subcommittee recommended replacing current policy language with Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) Policy BDFA recommended language. A motion was made by Mrs. Pelavin and seconded by Mrs. Cormier to send Policy BDFA with the recommended changes to the October full School Committee Meeting for a first read. The motion passed unanimously.

Policy BEDA – Notification of School Committee Meetings was reviewed and discussed. The Subcommittee recommended that language from the MASC Policy BEDA be combined with language from the District's current policy regarding requirements for changes to a meeting. A motion was made by Mrs. Pelavin and seconded by Mrs. Cormier to send the policy with the recommended changes to the October full School Committee Meeting for a first read. The motion passed unanimously.

Policy BEDF – School Committee Policy Development was reviewed and discussed. The Subcommittee recommended replacing current policy language with MASC Policy BEDF recommended language. A motion was made by Mrs. Cormier and seconded by Mrs. Pelavin to

send the policy with the recommended changes to the October full School Committee Meeting for a first read. The motion passed unanimously.

Policy EBCFA – Face Coverings was reviewed and discussed. Ms. McCaffrey stated that the MASC recommended Policy for face coverings was too specific and procedural. She recommended changes in language to the District’s current policy to reflect consideration of current guidelines and referral to District procedures that may change as guidance changes. A motion was made by Mrs. Pelavin and seconded by Mrs. Cormier to send the policy with the recommended changes to the October full School Committee Meeting for a first read. The motion passed unanimously. This policy was scheduled for a 2nd read, however, substantial edits were recommended since the submission of the first read to the School Committee so a first read will allow the full School Committee time to review the updated version prior to a second read and vote.

The next Policy Subcommittee meeting will occur on Tuesday, October 19, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. in the Superintendent’s Conference Room. The option to attend via ZOOM will also be available.

A motion was made by Mrs. Pelavin and seconded by Mrs. Cormier to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.