

Policy Committee Meeting
Central Office – Library
August 21, 2017
MINUTES

PRESENT: N. Carlow, R. Deakin, A. Dube, J. Moses, M. Nadeau, P. Penna,
M. Roy, R. Theriault, J. McCurdy (Athletic Trainer)

Meeting Dates: It was suggested that Policy Committee meetings start 1.5 hours before Board meetings. Mr. Deakin moved to adopt the standard of having committee meetings 1.5 hours before Board Meetings, Mr. Carlow seconded. All were in agreement.

BB – School Board Legal Status: The votes stated in this policy need to be changed due to reapportionment. Next year the votes will change again. They will no longer be weighted; votes will be one vote per person.

Mr. Dube made a motion to accept the numbers as presented; seconded by Mr. Deakin. All were in favor.

This policy will move to first reading.

It was suggested that the policy stating quorums be reviewed.

JJIF – Management of Concussions and Other Head Injuries: Mr. Curtis has spoken with several physical education teachers. Most had no problem watching the NHFS (National Federation of High School) Sports Video; it is 12 minutes long. However, if the policy requires only physical education teachers to watch the video, the SVTA might have some push back. Mr. Dube suggested changing the policy to require all administrators and teachers to watch the video (page 3). The consensus was that this requirement would result in more people being informed about head injuries. This change would be made on page 3 under “Training.” Mr. Curtis, Athletic Director, stated the team doctor is going to speak to parents at the parent meeting held at the beginning of each sport season. Coach Cooper has signed up for a training called “Heads Up Training.” This training teaches players the proper way to tackle to minimize the number of head injuries.

A change also needs to be made on page 1 in the 2nd paragraph. Add the word “all” and then after students “Attending schools especially those ...”

Mr. Roy suggested the video be provided to Frontline so that it could be viewed through that training portal. Frontline is used for various on-line training for MSAD 6 staff. The district is able to track who watches the video. Frontline imbeds a short test after the video to verify that the participant has actually watched the video. The district will determine how often it should be watched.

It was suggested that the district should explore ways to reduce the amount of contact made during sporting practices.

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Mr. Deakin asked to have the following legal reference added to the policy: Title 20-A, MRSA Sec. 254, 1001(19).

Moved by Mr. Deakin to send this policy for first reading; seconded by Mr. Carlow.
All were in favor.

JJIF-R – Guidelines for Athletes Return to Play After an Injury for Bonny Eagle High School and Bonny Eagle Middle School: Information will need to be added to this procedure outlining the implementation of the training requirement in Policy JJIF.

JEA – Compulsory Attendance: Maine State law states that students do not need to start school until age 7. With a proficiency-based system, some children are ready to start school at age 4. Mr. Penna was informed by a parent that he/she was told that their student exceeded the measures for Pre-K. This parent wanted to know if their student could then be screened for Kindergarten. The State's NEO system does not include students whose birthdays fall before the kindergarten age; therefore, the district would not get funding for younger children. Mr. Penna wanted the Policy Committee to know that this situation could come before a Board meeting.

Mr. Deakin said there is a civil rights law that prohibits age discrimination – Federal Age Discrimination Act of 1975. He admitted that the district is following state law but that state law is in violation of the federal law. Chapter 124 governs a 4-year old program.

State law only permits 16 students in a Pre-K classroom. The district can make exceptions if they so choose. Mr. Penna said he is looking at options for the program. The selection process is also being reviewed. Mr. Penna is talking to legal counsel to ensure that the district is selecting its students legally. He is presently looking at the viability of changing the Pre-K program at Edna Libby to two half-day sessions vs. one full-day session.

Will this become a funding issue? There would be no extra teacher costs if the Pre-K program at Edna Libby goes to two sessions. The district needs to think about adding a program in Hollis. Space can be an issue. The state is reviewing the maximum amount of time a student can stay in school as well as the minimum amount of time.

Mr. Penna did not ask for any changes at this time. Once a legal review is received, he will bring the policy back to the Policy Committee.

Moved by Mr. Deakin to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Nadeau. All were in favor.

The meeting ended at 5:30 p.m.

Next Meeting: **Tuesday**, September 5 @ 5:30 p.m.