

**New Milford Board of Education
Policy Sub-Committee Minutes
February 4, 2020
Lillis Administration Building, Room 2**

Present: Mrs. Angela C. Chastain, Chairperson
Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach
Mrs. Tammy McInerney
Mrs. Cynthia Nabozny

Also Present: Dr. Kerry Parker, Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Alisha DiCorpo, Assistant Superintendent of Schools

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1.	Call to Order The meeting of the New Milford Board of Education Policy Sub-Committee was called to order at 6:45 p.m. by Mrs. Chastain.	Call to Order
2.	Public Comment There was none.	Public Comment
3.	Discussion A. 9000 Series Review: 9000 Role of the Board and Member (Powers, Purposes, Duties) 9005 Role of the Board and Its Members (Integrity) 9010 Limits of Authority 9012 Legal Responsibilities of Boards of Education 9020 Public Statements 9270 Conflict of Interest 9271 Code of Ethics - Mrs. Chastain said this is a continuation of the 9000 series review. She invited comments on any of the policies, noting that they are all interconnected. - Mrs. Faulenbach said it is always good to look at Board bylaws. She said if no changes are made, an updated review date will be added. The bylaws provide a way for the Board to patrol itself and to bring accountability.	Discussion A. 9000 Series Review: 9000 Role of the Board and Member (Powers, Purposes, Duties) 9005 Role of the Board and Its Members (Integrity) 9010 Limits of Authority 9012 Legal Responsibilities of Boards of Education 9020 Public Statements 9270 Conflict of Interest 9271 Code of Ethics

- Regarding policy 9000, Mrs. Faulenbach said there is a lot of information here, lots of pieces about the Board's role, and it is important to review it periodically.
- Regarding policy 9005, Mrs. Faulenbach said Board members have been vigilant in the past about declaring conflict of interest issues. She said it can be difficult sometimes when visiting the schools to remember what hat you are wearing: parent, volunteer or Board member. The Board member hat should be worn only when designated to do so.
- Mrs. McNerney agreed, saying there will be people who want to engage and it can be a fine line to walk.
- Mrs. Chastain said it is important to be aware of the perception others have of you as well. They may see you as a Board member whether that is the hat you are wearing then or not.
- Mrs. Faulenbach said it can be a constant juggling act and it is important for Board members to be careful in their interactions with the public.
- Mrs. McNerney said she thought it was important for all Board members to review policies periodically because they govern action.
- Regarding policy 9020, Mrs. Faulenbach said it is a reminder that official statements go through the Board Chair, often in consultation with legal counsel. She said in the case of a press release, she is hopeful that Board members would see it prior to release, especially in this "instant" society.
- Mrs. McNerney said she thought it was important to clarify how information sent to the Board by letter or email is forwarded. She understands confidentiality, but said it is important to keep all Board members informed.
- Mrs. Faulenbach said she had made a note to discuss this when the policy regarding the role of the Chair is discussed.
- Mrs. Chastain said in some cases distribution

	may be limited due to student or staff personal information being included or a possible grievance or hearing down the road. • Mrs. McInerney said she thinks the new BOE district emails may bring some immediacy too. While she said she thinks the general emails are good practice, she said Board members will have to be cautious in making any response. • Mrs. Faulenbach said there has been conversation through the years about how communications are disseminated. She said it is always a work in progress and it will be important for the Board, collectively, to continue to standardize the communication platform going forward.	
4. A. Regulation 1. 1800 Animals on School Property • Dr. Parker said a few minor changes were made to the appendices only, regarding terminology of owner/handler and for sign offs. • Mrs. Chastain asked if animals entering the building are insured. Dr. Parker said yes, the owner/handler must indemnify. • Mrs. Faulenbach asked what the Policy agenda will consider next. • Mrs. Chastain said they would continue the review of the 9000 series bylaws. • Dr. Parker said they would also be looking at the policy and regulation regarding school attendance areas and making some suggestions for changes after consultation with legal counsel. • Mrs. Chastain said if there were any other policies the committee wishes to review to let her know.	Item of Information A. Regulation 1. 1800 Animals on School Property	Item of Information A. Regulation 1. 1800 Animals on School Property

5.	Public Comment • There was none.	Public Comment
6.	Adjourn Mrs. Faulenbach moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:04 p.m. seconded by Mrs. Nabozny and passed unanimously.	Adjourn Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Angela C. Chastain, Chairperson
Policy Sub-Committee