

**New Milford Board of Education
Policy Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes
April 5, 2022
Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center**

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
2022 APR - 7 A 8:21

NEW MILFORD, CT

Present:	Mrs. Olga I. Rella, Chairperson Mrs. Tammy McInerney Mrs. Leslie Sarich Mr. Brian McCauley, Alternate
Absent:	Mr. Keith A. Swanhall Jr.
Also Present:	Ms. Alisha DiCorpo, Superintendent of Schools Ms. Holly Hollander, Assistant Superintendent Ms. Rebecca Adams, Human Resources Director Mrs. Laura Olson, Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Services Mr. Anthony Giovannone, Director of Fiscal Services and Operations Mr. Jeffrey Turner, Technology Director

1.	Call to Order The meeting of the New Milford Board of Education Policy Sub-Committee was called to order at 6:50 p.m. by Mrs. Rella. Mr. McCauley was seated as an alternate in the absence of Mr. Swanhall.	Call to Order
2.	Public Comment Nicole Andrews, parent, read a letter she wrote to high school administrators in September about her concerns over how a dress code issue with her daughter was handled. She asked that dress code enforcement be clear, concise and consistent and at all times avoid contributing to body anxiety issues.	Public Comment
3.	Discussion and Possible Action	Discussion and Possible Action
A.	Policies/Regulations for Deletion/Approval: 3321 Requesting Goods and Services (Requisitions) - Mrs. Rella said these are back for final review before going back to the full Board. The policy is recommended for deletion.	A. Policies/Regulations for Deletion/Approval: 3321 Requesting Goods and Services (Requisitions) 3324.1 Contracts - Regulation

	2. 3324.1 Contracts - Regulation • Mrs. Rella said this regulation is recommended for deletion. • Mrs. McInerney agrees, saying it is not needed since it is already covered by law. 3. 3432/3433 Budget & Expense Report/Annual Financial Statement • Mrs. Rella said this policy will go to the full Board for final approval. B. Policy for Second Review: 1. 5121.2 Eligibility for Honor Rolls • Mrs. Rella said this policy is back for second review. The revision provides consistency between the middle school and high school. • Mrs. McInerney said she thinks this is a good move. She likes the consistency in expectations from school to school. She thanked the Technology and SMS staff who performed the manual work needed in order to recognize students this year under the current system. She said it is much appreciated. • Ms. DiCorpo said a joint congratulatory letter from her and the Mayor went to all honor roll students for the first time as well. In the future, they are discussing recognition and measurements for students who show tremendous growth even if they do not qualify for honor roll. C. Policies for First Review: • Ms. DiCorpo said legal suggested consultation with town auditors to see if they had any recommendations for revisions. • Mr. Giovannone spoke to the auditors who said the Board is responsible for policies but they would be happy to review and make suggestions regarding procedures.	3. 3432/3433 Budget & Expense Report/Annual Financial Statement B. Policy for Second Review: 1. 5121.2 Eligibility for Honor Rolls C. Policies for First Review: 1. 3440 Inventories 2. 3450 Monies in School Buildings 3. 3451 Petty Cash Funds
--	--	---

	1. 3440 Inventories - Mr. Giovannone said the auditors suggested the “current value exceeds \$300” threshold could be raised if the Board wishes. He will go back to them for a recommended amount. 2. 3450 Monies in School Buildings - Mr. Giovannone said the auditors suggested removing the phrase “and even then no more than a few dollars should be kept”. - Mrs. McInerney asked who is responsible for money collected by clubs. - Ms. DiCorpo said the club advisor. All advisors for any activity follow a well defined process set by the Business Office which includes use of a lockbox in the school office. 3. 3451 Petty Cash Funds - Mr. Giovannone said the auditors had no suggestions for revisions. - Mrs. Rella asked if the \$250 total is sufficient and what types of expenses the money is used for. - Mr. Giovannone said it is sufficient, and examples of use are for priority postage and refreshments for small meetings. Mr. McCauley moved to bring policies 3440 Inventories, 3450 Monies in School Buildings, and 3451 Petty Cash Funds to the full Board for first review. Motion seconded by Mrs. McInerney. Motion passed unanimously.	Motion made and passed unanimously to bring policies 3440 Inventories, 3450 Monies in School Buildings, and 3451 Petty Cash Funds to the full Board for first review.
4. A. Policy Review Update: 1. 5132 Dress and Grooming	Discussion A. Policy Review Update: 1. 5132 Dress and Grooming	Discussion A. Policy Review Update: 1. 5132 Dress and Grooming

	• Ms. Hollander said that Ms. Scoralick and Mr. Manka have been gathering information with a small group and now will look to expand to a larger group for feedback, with more specifics brought to the committee in May for consideration by the Board. • Mrs. Rella asked how this affects handbooks. • Ms. DiCorpo said the handbooks will be online so that helps and an addendum can be used if needed. She said she thinks that it is more important to make sure that any recommendations have a thorough review followed by consistent implementation with fidelity. • Mrs. McInerney agreed that proper communication of any changes and consistent roll out will be critical. Student shaming should never be accepted. B. Policies for Discussion: • Mrs. Rella said these policies are brought forward for discussion as a result of public comment regarding hate speech at the last meeting. 1. 5114 Removal/Suspension/Expulsion 2. 5131 Student Conduct • Ms. DiCorpo said legal was consulted to see if any districts have a separate policy regarding hate speech and the answer was none of which they are aware. Legal states that the general topic is covered under the current discipline policies. Policy 5114 has references on 5114(a), 5114(d), and 5114(e). • Mrs. Rella said the parent expressed concerns about student consequences following incidents. • Ms. DiCorpo said individual consequences cannot be shared but the district looks at both counseling and discipline and is doing significant work on climate and culture. We are also working to bring clarity to internal reporting documents.	B. Policies for Discussion: 1. 5114 Removal / Suspension / Expulsion 2. 5131 Student Conduct
--	--	---

	• Mrs. McInerney asked Ms. DiCorpo if she was recommending any changes to the policies, perhaps adding a reference to hate speech specifically. • Ms. DiCorpo said the policies already reference definitions that mirror law.	
5.	Public Comment • Nicole Andrews said she was concerned with the use of student chromebooks for possible bullying since students are able to use them to email any other student in the school. She asked if any blocks are considered. • Mrs. Rella asked Mr. Turner to comment. • Mr. Turner said he would need to look into the google rules. He said there are some filters already in place. • Ms. DiCorpo said the district already monitors for key words.	Public Comment
6.	Adjourn Mr. McCauley moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. seconded by Mrs. McInerney and passed unanimously.	Adjourn Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Olga I. Rella, Chairperson
Policy Sub-Committee