

**New Milford Board of Education  
Policy Sub-Committee Minutes  
September 3, 2019  
Lillis Administration Building, Room 2**

**Present:** Mrs. Tammy McInerney, Chairperson  
Mr. Joseph Failla  
Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach  
Mr. J.T. Schemm

**Also Present:** Dr. Kerry Parker, Superintendent of Schools  
Ms. Alisha DiCorpo, Assistant Superintendent of Schools  
Mrs. Laura Olson, Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Services

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| <b>1.</b> | <b>Call to Order</b><br><br>The meeting of the New Milford Board of Education Policy Sub-Committee was called to order at 6:45 p.m. by Mrs. McInerney.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>Call to Order</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>2.</b> | <b>Public Comment</b><br><br>• There was none.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>Public Comment</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>3.</b> | <b>Discussion and Possible Action</b><br><br><b>A. Policies Recommended for Revision and Approval at Initial Board Presentation in accordance with Board Bylaw 9311:</b><br><br><b>1. 1331 Smoking</b><br><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mrs. McInerney said this policy had been reviewed recently, but now additional revisions to language are being recommended due to statutory changes.</li> <li>Mrs. Faulenbach had a procedural question regarding this group of policies. She said the approval at initial Board presentation is usually allowed for revisions due to statutory changes only, but she said there are also language revisions suggested, which typically require more than one review. She asked if the revisions would be posted on the district's</li> </ul> | <b>Discussion and Possible Action</b><br><br><b>A. Policies Recommended for Revision and Approval at Initial Board Presentation in accordance with Board Bylaw 9311:</b><br><br><b>1. 1331 Smoking</b><br><br><div style="text-align: right;"> RECEIVED<br/>TOWN CLERK <br/>2019 SEP -5 A 8:31 </div> |

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|  | <p>website when approved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mrs. McInerney noted that child care center language was being incorporated in some of the policies at the recommendation of legal counsel. She questioned why that would be necessary since the schools are not child care centers.</li><li>• Mr. Failla mentioned the after-school programs, which while not run by the district, take place on school grounds, so this provides more of a catch all.</li><li>• Mrs. McInerney mentioned the child care preschool program at the high school.</li><li>• Mrs. Faulenbach suggested that since there was no August Policy meeting, and these changes are being suggested by legal counsel, it would be helpful to have additional commentary and explanation of the changes prior to the Board meeting, for further clarification.</li><li>• Mr. Schemm referenced the Pullman Comley School Law Alert, which discusses how this fits into the early childhood statutes. He liked the clarification to the public that smoking is prohibited by statute.</li></ul> <p><b>2. 4112.5 Criminal History Inquiries</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mrs. Faulenbach referenced the top of page 2. She said the new revision now requires confirmation in writing and asked if that meant it was previously allowed verbally.</li><li>• Dr. Parker said the district's procedure has always been to require written confirmation. This statute change now aligns the state with the district. She said this includes student teachers.</li><li>• Mr. Schemm asked who pays for this.</li><li>• Mr. Failla said this policy requires the staff member to notify the district.</li><li>• Mrs. McInerney asked about interns and other service providers.</li></ul> | <p><b>2. 4112.5 Criminal History Inquiries</b></p> |
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| <p><b>3. 4118.232 Smoking</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mrs. McNerney said this was similar to the Smoking policy already discussed.</li> <li>• Mrs. Faulenbach noted that it ties in the child care centers again.</li> <li>• Dr. Parker said she would get clarification on the child care reference.</li> <li>• Mr. Schemm asked if this could be an opportunity to combine the two policy numbers, 1331 and 4118.232/4218.232, into one number.</li> <li>• Mrs. Faulenbach said it was good to condense policies where appropriate, but she suggested that unintended ramifications should be considered before the change is made.</li> <li>• Mrs. McNerney said she would ask for additional research.</li> </ul> <p><b>4. 5114 Removal/Suspension/Expulsion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mrs. McNerney said it was interesting to read that the new statute requirements say that expulsion can only be if <i>both</i> policy violation occurred <i>and</i> the action is seriously disruptive of the educational process or endangers persons or property.</li> <li>• Mrs. McNerney noted that the policy now also separates suspensions and expulsions. They are handled differently.</li> <li>• Mr. Failla said the overall concept is that it is now more difficult to suspend or expel students.</li> </ul> <p><b>5. 5118 Nonresident Students</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mrs. McNerney said this revision focuses on homeless students.</li> <li>• Mrs. Faulenbach noted the emphasis and definition of unaccompanied students.</li> <li>• Mrs. McNerney said on 5118(b), clean-up is needed. The "or" under #3 needs to be moved to #4.</li> </ul> | <p><b>3. 4118.232 Smoking</b></p> <p><b>4. 5114 Removal / Suspension / Expulsion</b></p> <p><b>5. 5118 Nonresident Students</b></p> |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mr. Schemm noted the emphasis on a free, public education.</li><li>• Mrs. Faulenbach had a question on the last page, regarding the reference to 10 days. She asked if it is assumed to be calendar days. Dr. Parker said she would ask for clarification.</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                       |
| <p><b>6. 5118.1 Homeless Students</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mrs. McInerney said this policy is similar to 5118, but more specific to homeless students.</li><li>• Mrs. Faulenbach asked about the timeframe if a child is denied accommodations. Legal will be consulted for clarification.</li><li>• Mrs. McInerney requested a comma be added after residency.</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <p><b>6. 5118.1 Homeless Students</b></p>             |
| <p><b>7. 5141.21 Administration of Medication</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mrs. McInerney noted this adds the self-administration of over-the-counter sunscreen. Paperwork was sent home in the summer and fall to parents for this procedure, to be kept on file in the nurses' offices.</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <p><b>7. 5141.21 Administration of Medication</b></p> |
| <p><b>8. 6111 School Calendar</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mrs. McInerney said this policy discusses when a firm graduation date may be set. It is a change from 185 to 180 days. The date can be confirmed early in the year.</li><li>• Mr. Schemm suggested that dates could be set for more than one year in advance if the district calendars for those years were prepared ahead of time. Mrs. McInerney questioned whether the O'Neill Center would book more than one year in advance.</li><li>• Dr. Parker said she and Mr. Shugrue were in the process of forming a committee to work on the district calendar.</li><li>• Mrs. Faulenbach noted that the Board does not approve the district calendar.</li></ul> | <p><b>8. 6111 School Calendar</b></p>                 |

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|  | <p>Mrs. Faulenbach moved to bring the Policies Recommended for Revision and Approval at Initial Board Presentation in accordance with Board Bylaw 9311 to the Board for approval, seconded by Mrs. McNerney.</p> <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p><b>B. Policies for Review:</b></p> <p><b>1. 1700 Possession of Firearms on School Property Prohibited</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mrs. McNerney said this policy has been under review for a while.</li> <li>• Mr. Failla said his problem with this policy is with the prohibition of off-duty peace personnel from carrying weapons on school grounds.</li> <li>• Mrs. McNerney noted that the policy follows state statute, perhaps not municipality rules.</li> <li>• Mr. Failla said there is confusion with the law and policy language.</li> <li>• Dr. Parker said she would go back to legal with the discussion.</li> </ul> <p><b>2. 1800 Animals on School Property</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mrs. McNerney said this policy references service animals primarily. She had a question regarding how this relates to students with severe allergies.</li> <li>• Ms. DiCorpo noted that they may be prohibited if accommodations can't be made.</li> <li>• Mrs. Olson said she sees this as an opportunity to discuss therapy dog use in our public buildings. The Town policy prohibiting animals does not pertain to school buildings. She said there are a number of districts around us with this policy.</li> <li>• Dr. Parker said this is a brand-new policy for consideration.</li> </ul> | <p><b>Motion made and passed unanimously to bring the Policies Recommended for Revision and Approval at Initial Board Presentation in accordance with Board Bylaw 9311 to the Board for approval.</b></p> <p><b>B. Policies for Review:</b></p> <p><b>1. 1700 Possession of Firearms on School Property Prohibited</b></p> <p><b>2. 1800 Animals on School Property</b></p> |
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| 4. | <b>Discussion</b><br><br>A. <b>Policy Series for Next Review</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Mrs. McInerney asked for suggestions going forward besides continuing discussion on policies 1700 and 1800.</li><li>Mrs. Faulenbach suggested checking with legal for suggestions, then looking at the 9000 series. Since the Board is looking at turnover of members in December, it may be an appropriate time to review bylaws.</li></ul> | <b>Discussion</b><br><br>A. <b>Policy Series for Next Review</b>                                   |
| 5. | <b>Item of Information</b><br><br>A. <b>Pullman &amp; Comley School Law Alert – August 5, 2019</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Mrs. McInerney said this is provided for members' information.</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>Item of Information</b><br><br>A. <b>Pullman &amp; Comley School Law Alert – August 5, 2019</b> |
| 6. | <b>Public Comment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>There was none.</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <b>Public Comment</b>                                                                              |
| 7. | <b>Adjourn</b><br><br>Mrs. Faulenbach moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. seconded by Mr. Schemm and passed unanimously.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>Adjourn</b><br><br>Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m.       |

Respectfully submitted:



Tammy McInerney, Chairperson  
Policy Sub-Committee