

**New Milford Board of Education
Policy Sub-Committee Minutes
November 5, 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
Mr. Greg Shugrue, Principal, New Milford High School

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NEW MILFORD, CT

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. McInerney.	Call to Order
2.	Public Comment • There was none.	Public Comment
3.	Discussion and Possible Action A. Policy for Review: 1. 6146 Graduation Requirements • Mr. Shugrue distributed a handout detailing the current PE and Health requirements, and sections offered. He said when the policy was changed last year to align with PA 17-42, the PE credit was lowered to 1.0 credit and the Health requirement was raised to 1.0 credit. As a result, NMHS does not have enough staff currently to meet the demand. His solution is to amend the policy to reduce the PE requirement from 2.0 credits to 1.0 credit for the class of 2021 and 2022. This would still meet the state requirement. Otherwise, two PE/Health teachers will need to be hired to meet the demands of additional Health sections. He said students can still take PE as an elective if they are interested.	Discussion and Possible Action A. Policy for Review: 1. 6146 Graduation Requirements

	• Dr. Parker said this is a two-year problem only and any newly hired teachers will not be needed after that. • Mr. Shugrue said he did not realize the issue of the two-year bump until he started schedule building in June, after the policy was approved. • Mrs. McNerney said she is concerned that a reduction will result in more study halls for students. Mr. Shugrue said hopefully students would choose to pick up a different elective. • Mrs. Faulenbach noted that students have often struggled to get electives in the past. She said what's done is done and she thinks it is best to fix this while we can. She is not in favor of adding staff for two years. • Mr. Failla said he is not keen on reducing credits in PE as he has a philosophical issue with less physical activity for students, but he understands the need to make the reduction, saying it is an easy solution to the problem. Mrs. McNerney moved to bring Policy 6146 Graduation Requirements to the Board for first review, seconded by Mr. Schemm. The motion passed unanimously.	Motion made and passed unanimously to bring Policy 6146 Graduation Requirements to the Board for first review.
4. A. Regulation 1. 1800 Animals on School Property • Mrs. Faulenbach said she was thankful to see this regulation, which she requested. • Dr. Parker said she appreciated the good work done by legal to provide details and forms for implementing this new initiative. She said as a result of the research done for the regulation, legal is recommending additional adjustments to the policy. These adjustments will show up at the Board's second review. • Mrs. Faulenbach said she was curious whether	Discussion A. Regulation 1. 1800 Animals on School Property	

	or not the handler must have coverage on their home insurance. She also wonders how this policy will affect the district's CIRMA coverage. • Mr. Schemm said the policy says the handler is responsible for all damage. • Mr. Failla said regardless, potential lawsuits can't be prevented. • Mr. Schemm noted that privacy is a concern with regards to rights under special education and 504. He also suggested that the type of licensing might be further clarified. • Mrs. Faulenbach asked that the regulation be added as an item of information for the full Board agenda. • Dr. Parker said the regulation gives procedures for allowing the use of a therapy dog as part of an approved program. • Mrs. Olson said the use of a service animal is a legal requirement. Any non-service animal would be used in a therapeutic program. • Ms. DiCorpo said she has concerns with the allergy piece, since not all parents report all allergies. Dr. Parker said they would address this on a case by case basis for both service and non-service animals. • Mr. Schemm said he was glad to see the district being proactive with the policy and regulation. B. 9000 Series Review: 1. 9000 Role of the Board and Member (Powers, Purposes, Duties) 2. 9005 Role of the Board and Its Members (Integrity) 3. 9010 Limits of Authority 4. 9012 Legal Responsibilities of Boards of Education 5. 9020 Public Statements • Mrs. McNerney said this month begins the review of the 9000 series. • Mr. Schemm asked why the review was beginning at a time that the Board was changing.	
	B. 9000 Series Review: 1. 9000 Role of the Board and Member (Powers, Purposes, Duties) 2. 9005 Role of the Board and Its Members (Integrity) 3. 9010 Limits of Authority 4. 9012 Legal Responsibilities of Boards of Education 5. 9020 Public Statements	

- Mrs. Faulenbach said the series will take months to go through so the new Board will have time to give input.
- Mrs. McNerney opened discussion on policy 9000. She said, on page 9000(a), she thought numbers 1 and 6 could be consolidated.
- Mrs. Faulenbach said she thinks number 1 references the fiscal operations piece while number 6 pulls out educational interests specifically.
- Mrs. Faulenbach suggested that number 5 should include a reference to MOUs, since they are contracts that need to be approved by the full Board.
- Mr. Failla suggested adding the language “to include, but not limited to MOUs” for specificity.
- Mr. Schemm suggested adding bracketed examples.
- Mrs. Faulenbach said this policy helps guide future actions and defines Board duties according to statute. She asked what the protocol is for the Board to follow if there is a concern that a member is not following the guidelines.
- Dr. Parker asked if Mrs. Faulenbach was referring to self-regulation on the part of the Board.
- Mr. Schemm said censure is an option.
- Mr. Failla said he did not think a Board member could be removed, since they are elected officials.
- Mrs. Faulenbach said she is looking to tighten what we do here. She said Board members must act as one entity, not as individuals. She said the Board should hold themselves to a high standard.
- Mr. Schemm suggested grievances could be aired in executive session if properly warned.
- Mrs. Faulenbach said perhaps a Board seminar or workshop format would be helpful.
- Additional policies were not discussed due to

	time constraints. They will be added to future agendas.	
5.	Public Comment • There was none.	Public Comment
6.	Adjourn Mr. Schemm moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 p.m. seconded by Mr. Failla and passed unanimously.	Adjourn Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Tammy McInerney, Chairperson
Policy Sub-Committee