

**New Milford Board of Education
Policy Sub-Committee Special Meeting Minutes
October 13, 2022
Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center**

Present:	Mrs. Olga I. Rella, Chairperson Mrs. Tammy McInerney Mr. Brian McCauley, Alternate Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach, Ex Officio	RECEIVED TOWN CLERK 2022 OCT 17 A 8:28 NEW MILFORD, CT
Absent:	Mrs. Leslie Sarich Mr. Keith A. Swanhall Jr.	
Also Present:	Dr. JeanAnn C. Paddyfote, Interim Superintendent of Schools Ms. Holly Hollander, Assistant Superintendent	

1.	Call to Order The special meeting of the New Milford Board of Education Policy Sub-Committee was called to order at 6:45 p.m. by Mrs. Rella. Mr. McCauley was seated in the absence of Mrs. Sarich. Mrs. Faulenbach was seated in the absence of Mr. Swanhall.	Call to Order
2.	Public Comment • There was none.	Public Comment
3.	Discussion and Possible Action A. Policies Recommended for Revision and Approval at Initial Board Presentation in accordance with Board Bylaw 9311: 1. 5158 Policy to Improve Completion Rates of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) • Dr. Paddyfote said this new policy is mandated as of July 1, 2022. New Milford's completion rate is currently at 63%. The top 20 are in the high 70% to low 80% so there is room for improvement. • Mrs. Rella said she knows the high school already does some outreach in this area. She said she thinks a virtual presentation would be very helpful for parents. • Dr. Paddyfote said a regulation will be presented later in the meeting in conjunction	Discussion and Possible Action A. Policies Recommended for Revision and Approval at Initial Board Presentation in accordance with Board Bylaw 9311: 1. 5158 Policy to Improve Completion Rates of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) 2. 6142.1 Curricular Exemptions 3. 6144 Policy for the Equitable Identification of Gifted and Talented Students

	with this policy that will mandate a school based task force. • Mrs. McInerney said she thinks this will be very helpful as the FAFSA is not easy to complete. She thinks the policy is clear and well written. 2. 6142.1 Curricular Exemptions • Dr. Paddyfote said this recommendation from Shipman and Goodwin has a strikeout through firearm safety since that is not part of the district's curriculum. This policy will replace the current policy in totality. • Mrs. McInerney noted an additional reference to firearm safety on page 2 that also needs a strikethrough. • Dr. Paddyfote said the correction will be made before the policy goes to the full Board. • Mrs. McInerney asked if the district receives many exemption requests. • Ms. Hollander said they have not received any during her tenure. 3. 6144 Policy for the Equitable Identification of Gifted and Talented Students • Dr. Paddyfote said this is a new policy which encompasses the mandated identification and lays out the format for it. Though not required, the district does service this population. • Mrs. Rella said she believes this identification is done through 504 now, not the PPT process. • Dr. Paddyfote said this program falls under general education. • Ms. Hollander said the district has a robust program and a new instructor who is working on additional systems going forward. The district is focused on enrichment for all. • Mrs. McInerney said she thinks it is good that the district is fine tuning how we identify. • Mrs. Faulenbach said anything that provides more guidance is a good thing. She asked how handbooks will be updated. • Dr. Paddyfote said notification will be through building principals. She has already reminded	
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	them about being mindful of policy updates coming through the Board. Mrs. McNerney moved to bring policies: 1. 5158 Policy to Improve Completion Rates of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) 2. 6142.1 Curricular Exemptions 3. 6144 Policy for the Equitable Identification of Gifted and Talented Students to the full Board for approval at the initial meeting. Motion seconded by Mrs. Faulenbach. Motion passed unanimously.	Motion made and passed unanimously to bring policies: 1. 5158 Policy to Improve Completion Rates of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) 2. 6142.1 Curricular Exemptions 3. 6144 Policy for the Equitable Identification of Gifted and Talented Students to the full Board for approval at the initial meeting.
4.	Item of Information A. Regulation: 1. 5158 Administrative Regulation Addressing Improving the Completion Rates of FAFSA • Dr. Paddyfote said this regulation references the school based task force. • Mrs. McNerney said she is very happy with the new format of a more generalized policy with a regulation to cover the specifics. • Mrs. Faulenbach said the high school always does a FAFSA Night for parents and students. • Dr. Paddyfote said this will add to that to see if we can boost the completion rate further. • Mrs. Rella said a bilingual piece would be very helpful. • Ms. Hollander said the district is fortunate in that the head counselor is a former world languages teacher who speaks Spanish.	Item of Information A. Regulation: 1. 5158 Administrative Regulation Addressing Improving the Completion Rates of FAFSA
5.	Discussion A. Policy for Revision:	Discussion A. Policy for Revision:

	1. 5132 Student Dress B. Regulation: 1. 5132 Student Dress • Dr. Paddyfote said she has worked up a policy and regulation for the committee to consider. They are first drafts and she recommends the committee continue discussion next month in order to give administrators time to comment as well. • Mrs. McInerney said she likes how they hone in on guiding students to appropriate career ready dress. • Mrs. Faulenbach said there had been concerns raised about inconsistent administration. The proposed policy recognizes the dress code with the regulation articulating more specific guidance. • Mrs. McInerney said she thinks this is a wonderful jumping off point. She suggested the removal of the word “overly” in letter E of the regulation. • Ms. Hollander said an integral part will be to teach into the changes as part of the school culture. • Mr. McCauley said he approves of the suggestions. • Mrs. Rella agreed and thanked Dr. Paddyfote and Ms. Hollander. C. Audit of Policy Series 5000 Students and 6000 Instruction • Dr. Paddyfote said these series really need a complete review. There are some policies that aren’t required, others that we don’t have and should. Shipman and Goodwin have dedicated staff that can perform this function and will provide us with a spreadsheet of suggestions for changes. The 5000 series has 57 policies and the cost estimate is \$1,860; the 6000 series has 46 policies and cost is estimated at \$1,550. Since funding will come from the legal line, this does not need Board approval and is presented for information purposes. Once these	1. 5132 Student Dress B. Regulation: 1. 5132 Student Dress C. Audit of Policy Series 5000 Students and 6000 Instruction
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	are complete, the next series to tackle will be 4000 Personnel. • Mrs. Rella said we spend on legal fees one way or another and she thinks this will be a great service. • Mrs. Faulenbach said she agrees there are too many policies, leaving the district open to procedural and financial liabilities. It will be good to move through them expeditiously.	
6.	Public Comment • There was none.	Public Comment
7.	Adjourn Mr. McCauley moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:19 p.m. seconded by Mrs. McInerney and passed unanimously.	Adjourn Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Olga I. Rella, Chairperson
Policy Sub-Committee

