

**New Milford Board of Education
Policy Sub-Committee Minutes
April 3, 2018**

Present: Mr. J.T. Schemm, Chairperson
Mr. Joseph Failla (arrived at 7:14 p.m.)
Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach
Mrs. Tammy McInerney

Also Present: Mr. Joshua Smith, Superintendent
Ms. Alisha DiCorpo, Assistant Superintendent

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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 Mr. Schemm.	Call to Order
2.	Public Comment There was none.	Public Comment
3.	Discussion - Mr. Schemm said the items on tonight's agenda are for discussion and information only so there would be no action taken. As previously discussed, the committee will be reviewing the 1000 series, which was last reviewed in 2013, to see if the policies comport with where the district is now or if any updates are recommended. - Mrs. Faulenbach said she thought this was good practice and said she hoped the 2000 series would be reviewed next since many of those policies are dated 2002.	Discussion
A.	Policies: 1. 1000 Concept, Goals and Roles in Community Relations Mrs. Faulenbach said she had a general question that might pertain to other policies. She noted that this policy was not tied to a legal reference and as such wondered if it could be reviewed for possible deletion, as might be the case with others going forward.	A. Policies: 1. 1000 Concept, Goals and Roles in Community Relations

	• Mrs. McInerney agreed that the Board should look to combine policies and simplify where appropriate since it will make it easier to find information. • Mr. Schemm said that he thought some of the language in this policy is dated and he said he would like to see some of the mission statement language added, especially that which echoes the collaborative nature of the school-community partnership. • Mrs. Faulenbach said she thought this was an appropriate first policy for the series as it is welcoming to the community. She too would like to see wording from the mission statement added. • Mr. Smith said they would work on that internally and bring it back to the committee next month for discussion. Once the committee agrees to any changes, the policies will be sent to legal for final review and approval. 2. 1110 Administration and School Relations with the Board • Mrs. Faulenbach said she appreciates the structure and boundaries that this policy provides. She also noted that several of these policies echo content in the 9000 series and suggested that cross referencing should be done to check for any discrepancies. 3. 1110.1 Communications with the Public • Ms. DiCorpo said this policy references Title I which does not apply to the district currently because we are under the threshold. • Mr. Smith noted that the legal reference is no longer valid and should be updated. • Mr. Schemm suggested it be cross referenced with policy 6172.41 which also discusses Title I to make sure they are consistent. • Mr. Smith noted as an aside that a question had come up about the swearing in of Board and the Town's Ethics Code. Just as a clarification, this does not apply to the BOE because Boards of Education are instruments of the State not	2. 1110 Administration and School Relations with the Board 3. 1110.1 Communications with the Public
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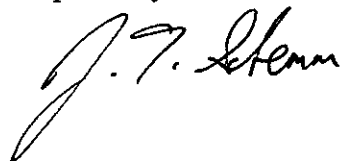
	the Town. 4. 1112 News Media Relationships • Mrs. Faulenbach asked if the policy wording should add a designee in the absence of the superintendent. • Mr. Smith said a designee is approved annually at the June BOE meeting. • Mr. Schemm noted a tie in here to the 9000 series again. • Mrs. Faulenbach noted that the language is a little dated and does not reference social media, live streaming etc. • Mrs. McInerney said she thought the language was appropriately generic. • Mr. Smith suggested that the language could be simplified to just say broadcast, which would cover all forms. 5. 1112.5 Media Access to Students • Mrs. McInerney asked if there was a significance to the policy numbers used, specifically why this policy used .5 in its numbering. • Mr. Schemm said most of the policies originate with CAFE and many districts use their template to set their own policies so it helps to have consistent numbering. That way if you are looking to see what another district's policy says, you can find it easily. The .5 is probably due to how close its topic is to the one before: News Media. • Mrs. McInerney mentioned the opt-out language in this policy. Mr. Smith said this is harder to police with all the social media access by both parents and students. 6. 1120 Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings • Mrs. Faulenbach said this policy references mailing meeting notices and asked if this is still done. Mr. Smith said if there is a written request. He said there was a change in practice	4. 1112 News Media Relationships 5. 1112.5 Media Access to Students 6. 1120 Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings
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	recently to more closely follow policy language. Only Board members receive the full packet of materials prior to meeting discussion; others receive only the posted notice of the meeting. • Mr. Schemm noted that the Board provides the Town with an annual calendar of meetings each January as required. • Mr. Failla said he has a problem with the length of allowed public participation. He feels the Board's 3 minute limit is not sufficient and that it should be raised to at least 5 minutes. • Mrs. Faulenbach said she likes that the policy gives discretion to the Chair to run the meeting and that the discretion would include length of public participation. She did note that the Board has a Parliamentarian to help with rules and order but the policies do not mention that role anywhere. • Mr. Schemm said he would want to ensure there was consistency in the time allotted to each speaker at a meeting. He said there may be occasions where the time might actually have to be limited to less if there were numerous people who wanted to speak, so that all could be heard while allowing for the business of the Board. • Mrs. McInerney said she thinks it is helpful to review public participation guidelines at the beginning of a meeting where there are many people who want to speak and who might not regularly attend. She also agreed that the role of the parliamentarian should be added to the policies. • Mr. Schemm asked if having public participation at the beginning and end of subcommittees was a new practice and wondered if it should be considered for full Board meetings. • Mrs. Faulenbach said it changed over the last few years to accommodate Board members who wished to speak at subcommittee and were not members of the committee. She said it is the role of the chair to set the agenda so public comment can be added by the Chair prior to posting notice. She said any agenda can also be	
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	amended by 2/3 vote to approve.	
4.	Items of Information A. High School Graduation Requirements – Public Act No. 17-42 B. Policy 6146 Graduation Requirements • Mr. Schemm said he had asked Mr. Smith for the most recent legislation regarding graduation requirements. Mr. Smith provided our current policy for reference. The move to 25 credits would currently go into effect for the Class of 2023, current 7th grade students. • Mrs. Faulenbach noted that New Milford is currently at 26 credits. • Mr. Schemm noted that the current policy references the Class of 2013 up and suggested we use 2017 and forward instead. • Mr. Failla said he likes having the historical context included for reference and community knowledge. • Mr. Schemm suggested the order of the years be flipped at least. • Mr. Failla said he thought it was good that New Milford was “ahead of the cart” regarding credits. • Mr. Smith said the idea at the time was to start to add credits gradually so that the change would not have to occur all at once, which would be a significant cost. New Milford was able to start this at no increased cost due to the reinvestment of funds at the time JPS was closed. • Mrs. McInerney asked for clarification that the law only requires 20 credits now but is marching towards 25. • Mrs. DiCorpo said that is true. She said other districts were surveyed last April for COL and most were already at 25 credits or close. • Mr. Schemm noted that the Public Act also references mastery level review. • Mrs. Faulenbach asked if any middle school instruction such as in world languages could count for high school credit. Mr. Smith said	Items of Information A. High School Graduation Requirements – Public Act No. 17-42 B. Policy 6146 Graduation Requirements

	that the state is requiring seat time for graduation credit so classes must be taken in high school. They can only give scope and sequence credit towards high school course advancement.	
5.	Public Comment • There was none.	Public Comment
6.	Adjourn Mrs. Faulenbach moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 p.m. seconded by Mrs. McInerney and passed unanimously.	Adjourn Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



J.T. Schemm, Chairperson
Policy Sub-Committee