



NORTH MIDDLESEX REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE

Ashby – Pepperell – Townsend, Massachusetts

MINUTES – February 27, 2024
Virtual via Zoom

PRESENT

Chairperson	Randee Rusch	Member, Townsend
	Lisa Martin	Member, At-Large
	Lisa Bloom	Member, At-Large
	Brad Morgan	Superintendent
	Gary Burboa-Reese	Asst. Superintendent ~ Left at 9:01 a.m.
	Robin Eibye	Recording Secretary

ALSO PRESENT

Jeremy Hamond	Director of Operations
Timothy McMahon	Principal, NMRHS
Chantele Olmstead	Principal, HBMS
Lauren Young	Principal, NMS

CALL TO ORDER

1. Chairperson Randee Rusch opened the meeting at 8:32 a.m.
2. Roll Call

Roll Call:			
Randee Rusch	Yes	Lisa Martin	Yes
Lisa Bloom	Yes	Robin Eibye	Yes
Brad Morgan	Yes	Gary Burboa-Reese	Yes
Jeremy Hamond	Yes	Timothy McMahon	Yes
Chantele Olmstead	Yes	Lauren Young	Yes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Following review, Lisa Martin motioned, and Randee Rusch seconded to vote and approve the minutes dated February 9, 2024, as presented.

Roll Call Vote:			
Randee Rusch	Yes	Lisa Martin	Yes
Lisa Bloom	Yes		

OUR MISSION: At NM, we are committed to creating a diverse learning environment where students are provided a meaningful education through academic, social, and emotional learning experiences. Together with parents, caregivers, and the community, students are encouraged to ignite and embrace their individual potential to find success within NM and beyond.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

- o None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Cell Phone Policy
Dennis Yarmouth: JCIJ and GBEF
East Longmeadow EGAF, JICJ and JICJ-R

The Committee deliberated on the usage of cell phones by students, addressing concerns regarding distractions and disruptions to classroom learning. Chantele Olmstead and Lauren Young specifically discussed the "Off and Away" policy for the middle school level. Ms. Young outlined that for a first offense, the phone would be confiscated and returned to the student at the end of the day, while a second offense would require parental retrieval of the phone.

The conversation extended to the topic of smartwatches, with a consideration for students with medical reasons necessitating access to their devices. Mr. Morgan emphasized the importance of a district-wide policy to support building administration. To guide their decision-making, the Committee reviewed policies from Dennis Yarmouth (JCIJ and GBEF) and East Longmeadow (EGAF, JICJ, and JICJ-R). It was collectively decided that a combination of these policies would best align with the district's requirements.

Randee Rusch volunteered to draft the proposed policy, which will be presented for review and discussion during the next regular meeting.

At 8:50 a.m., Lauren Young, Tim McMahon, and Chantele Olmstead concluded their participation in the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Redistricting Survey for Ashby Residents
The Committee examined the Ashby Families Redistricting Survey, leading to a conversation about communication strategies. Consensus was reached among Committee members that the survey should be distributed to all Ashby parents/caregivers.

NEW BUSINESS

2. BDF Student Advisory Committees to the SC and JIB Student Involvement in Decision Making
The Committee examined policies BDF and JIB, initiating a conversation regarding the stipulation that the School Committee convene at least once every other month during the school year alongside its student advisory committee. Ms. Rusch referenced M.G.L. Chapter 71 Section 30, prompting a discussion about appointing a Student Outreach Coordinator to facilitate the establishment of a student advisory committee and consistently update the Advisory Committee on the School Committee's agenda.

Ms. Rusch highlighted the necessity for an updated policy for the 2024-2025 school year, ensuring there was ample time for the Committee to revise and seek School Committee approval.

3. KDCB District Website and Social Media

The Committee examined the draft of the proposed District Website and Social Media policy, sparking a conversation about the inclusion of comments and fostering community engagement, highlighting the necessity for a formalized policy. Further deliberation ensued regarding various aspects such as social media platforms, community groups, logos, NM branding, and associated expectations.

In moving forward, Robin Eibye and Jeremy Hamond volunteered to collaborate on drafting the policy and committed to presenting their work to the Policy Committee for thorough review and discussion.

OTHER BUSINESS NOT REASONABLY ANTICIPATED WITHIN 48 HOURS OF MEETING

- None

NEXT MEETING

- The Committee agreed to meet on Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at 8:30 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:34 a.m., Lisa Martin motioned, and Lisa Bloom seconded to adjourn.

Roll Call Vote:			
Randee Rusch	Yes	Lisa Martin	Yes
Lisa Bloom	Yes		

Vote: The motion unanimously passed. 3/0/0

Documents Reviewed / Referred To:

- 2024 02-27 Policy Subcommittee Agenda
- 2024 02-09 Policy Minutes
- Dennis Yarmouth: JCIJ and GBEF
- East Longmeadow EGAF, JICJ and JICJ-R
- BDF Student Advisory Committees to the SC
- JIB Student Involvement in Decision Making
- KDCB District Website and Social Media

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Eibye, Recording Secretary

APPROVED: March 12, 2024
