

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education Policy Committee met in Regular Session on Monday, February 13, 2023 at 4:00 PM in the library at Coginchaug Regional High School.

Committee members present: Ms. Betty, Mrs. Dahlheimer, Dr. Darcy (arrived late - by phone, then in person), Mr. Mennone, Mr. Moore and Mr. Roraback

Committee members absent: Mr. Stone

Board members present: Mrs. Petrella

Administration present: Dr. Schuch, Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Moore called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

### **Public Comment**

None.

### **Approval of Agenda**

*Mrs. Dahlheimer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mennone, to approve the agenda, as presented.*

*In favor of approving the agenda, as presented: Ms. Betty, Mrs. Dahlheimer, Mr. Mennone, Mr. Moore and Mr. Roraback. Motion passed.*

### **Approval of Minutes - January 18, 2023**

*Mr. Roraback made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Dahlheimer, to approve the minutes of January 18, 2023, as presented.*

*In favor of approving the minutes of January 18, 2023, as presented: Ms. Betty, Mrs. Dahlheimer, Mr. Mennone, Mr. Moore and Mr. Roraback. Motion passed.*

### **Social Media Regulation**

Dr. Schuch reviewed that the committee discussed this regulation at the last meeting and this new wording brings the regulation up to what current practice has been for about four years. The wording will be changed on the form. He explained that ParentSquare keeps a record of every form that has been sent to every parent, whether it has been completed or not. Mrs. Dahlheimer noted that you can't see the form once it has been submitted.

Mrs. Petrella noted that at one point, the regulation mentions a Board-issued account but then notes a social media page established by the employee. Mr. Moore felt that that meant that an employee has to use their RSD 13 account to post and the supervisor will then have access to it. The idea is that employees cannot use their personal accounts for school posts. Mrs. Petrella asked if parents are aware that their children may appear on social media sites and Dr. Schuch explained that that is what is being updated on the form and there will be no expectation of privacy.

Mr. Moore gave a scenario where a teacher may have a student on a sports team and post a picture of the team on their personal page. Dr. Schuch felt that was a gray area and if a complaint was received, they would probably have to ask the attorneys. He believes there is no expectation of privacy at a sports event that is open to the public.

Dr. Schuch explained that there are no changes to the policy, just the regulation.

### **Monthly Policy Review: 2000 Series Policies**

Dr. Schuch explained that they are recommending a number of these policies be deleted for the same reasons that they did in the 1000 series. There are also a number of policies that they feel are misplaced. The overall recommendation is that anything that stays in this section be moved to another section as there will only be two or three policies remaining.

Mrs. Dahlheimer felt that the policy on Administration Leeway in Absence of Board of Education needs to remain though it could be moved. Mr. Moore agreed that the first paragraph gives the superintendent the authority to solve problems, but Dr. Schuch felt that he has that authority anyway. Dr. Schuch interpreted this policy to be when something happens and there is no board policy that speaks to it, such as snow days. Mr. Moore felt that this policy needs to remain.

Dr. Darcy called into the meeting at this point.

Moving to Administration Lines of Responsibility, Mr. Moore agreed that this policy can be deleted as it is covered in the teacher contracts. Dr. Schuch felt that organizational structure and job descriptions should be in the same policy and they recommended that the basic language be kept and combined into one policy under the 4000 series, personnel section. Policy 2130 will be deleted and policy 2100 will go to 4100.

Policy 2220 was recommended for deletion as it is vague and is more philosophy than policy. Dr. Darcy arrived at the meeting at this point.

Mrs. Dahlheimer asked if they could get copies of any policies that are deleted so that the board can possibly incorporate them into goals and objectives. Dr. Darcy asked if each school is left to create a policy if one doesn't exist and Dr. Schuch felt that, in the absence of specific policy, it would fall to the superintendent and the principals. Dr. Schuch added that the district's attorneys cautioned them about being too specific about elections and inviting people into the schools, noting that that is covered by law and a policy is not needed. Mrs. Dahlheimer felt that the board needs to look at this eventually, with the way politics are going. Dr. Darcy agreed that there were laws governing that, but they may want to reinforce that to the faculty.

Dr. Schuch recommended that they replace Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness with the Shipman model policy and move it to series 3000. Dr. Schuch would like to rename Policy 2231 to Policy and Regulations System and move it to the 9000 series, to hopefully merge with 9931. They also made some changes to reflect the digital age. Dr. Darcy felt that they should agree to provide hard copies to anyone in the public, upon request. Mrs. Dahlheimer suggested using the word "accessible" rather than "placed" on the district website.

It was suggested to move policy 2240 to the 3000 series and use the Shipman model policy. Mrs. Dahlheimer read the Shipman policy and Dr. Schuch reiterated that there is no expectation of privacy. Mrs. Dahlheimer would like to possibly incorporate some CAGE policy wording as well.

The policy regarding the superintendent and contract will be moved to the 9000 series. Going on to 2230, they recommended it be moved to the 5000 series. It was also recommended to adopt Shipman language on Uniform Treatment of Recruiters and move it to series 5000. This policy includes recruiters from colleges, employers and military.

Dr. Darcy had sent some language to Mr. Mennone about the Equity policy and explained that she felt that if they are going to list any ways in which the district is going to be equitable, they should list all of them. She also felt that some of the definitions are inaccurate. She also suggested adding protective classes to the policy.

**Public Comment**

None.

**Adjournment**

*A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.*

*In favor of adjourning the meeting: Ms. Betty, Mrs. Dahlheimer, Dr. Darcy, Mr. Mennone, Mr. Moore and Mr. Roraback. Motion passed unanimously.*

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Debi Waz

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