

WESTBROOK BOARD OF EDUCATION

**Policy Subcommittee Meeting**

Thursday, January 23, 2014 @ 6:00 p.m.

Board of Education Conference Room

MINUTES

Members Present: Marti White, Maureen Westbrook, Dee Adorno, Kim Walker  
Absent: Pat Labbadia  
Also Present: Patricia A. Ciccone, Superintendent; Lesley Wysocki, Business Manager;  
JoAnn Freiberg, CSDE, Co-chair National School Climate Center

- I. CALL TO ORDER- 6:00 p.m.: Marti White, Chair called the Policy Subcommittee to order at 6:02 p.m.
- II. PUBLIC SESSION: None
- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: January 9, 2014: Moved by Maureen Westbrook and seconded by Marti White to approve the minutes of January 9, 2014. Ayes: M. White, M. Westbrook – Abstentions: K. Walker, D. Adorno
- IV. NEW BUSINESS: Tuition Policy: Lesley Wysocki, Business Manager, was present to explain the formula for determining the tuition rate. The current regulation does not reflect how most districts determine tuition rates. Mrs. Wysocki explained that figures are used from the September ED001 and she will put the formula in writing.
- V. OLD BUSINESS: School Climate Policy Draft: Review and Edits: Edits were made as an outcome of the January 9 Policy Subcommittee’s review and a revised draft was distributed. Dee Adorno requested that there be more emphasis on building the strengths of students. She referred to the Declarations as legislative and legal language. Kim Walker agreed that she would like to see a positive strength-based theme. It was suggested that it be made clear in Section VII that the District makes a commitment to recognize positive behavior. Dr. Freiberg, CSDE consultant, agreed that Section VII would be an appropriate place to add positive language. The Superintendent suggested using the term “engagement” and Dr. Freiberg suggested the term “inclusion.”

Marti White suggested the Board of Education’s Belief Statements be reviewed in the near future again to align with this language.

Several suggestions were made to revise the draft including removing the legislative phrase “for the purposes of the Policy” throughout the document. Also, it was suggested to “bullet” the six essential practices in Item I.a., and to remove footnote 12 and create a paragraph under Item X. Accountability with that

information. Also, under Item X. Accountability, a suggestion was made to change the first sentence to begin, *The Board of Education shall work to uphold the standards and vision of this Policy by . . .*

In reviewing the draft, it was noted that suggestions and refinements are appreciated, especially because Westbrook is the first school district in the nation to craft and adopt a School Climate Policy. Other CT school districts are asking to use this policy as a model in their own efforts to improve school climates.

The Superintendent will bring a summary of this work, referencing training, Professional Development and student projects in progress, to the February Board of Education meeting,. The Policy Subcommittee will meet again on March 6 at 6:30 p.m. to go over the draft once again and with a goals of bringing it to the March 11 Board of Education meeting for a first reading.

VI. ADJOURN: Moved by Maureen Westbrook and seconded by Kim Walker to adjourn at 7:25 p.m. Vote unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Kim Walker, Secretary

Cecilia S. Lester, Board Recording Clerk