

WESTBROOK BOARD OF EDUCATION

Policy Subcommittee Meeting

Thursday, February 25, 2016 @ 5:00 p.m.

Board of Education Conference Room

MINUTES

Present: Marti White, Dee Adorno, Kim Walker, Don Perreault, Mary Ella Luft

Also Present: Patricia A. Ciccone, Superintendent; Madeline Illinger, Director of Special Services.

- I. CALL TO ORDER: The Policy Committee meeting was called to order at 5:04 p.m. by Marti White, Chair, in the BOE Conference room.
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Moved by Dee Adorno and seconded by Kim Walker to approve the minutes of January 21, 2016. Vote unanimous.
- III. NEW BUSINESS: Wellness Policy
Superintendent Ciccone shared that the Wellness Council's membership is diverse including staff, parents, community members, athletic trainer, and USI Insurance representative. The Wellness Council started its work in the spring of 2015 and in revising the current policy has utilized the Alliance for a Healthier Generation model. Madeline Illinger reviewed each section of the policy with the Policy Subcommittee, including the Preamble, Wellness Policy Implementation Monitoring, Accountability and Community Engagement, Nutrition, Physical Activity and Other Activities That Promote Student Wellness. Mrs. Illinger said that the Wellness Council will meet four times per year and will begin working on goals for each school.

After a thorough discussion of the revised policy, Kim Walker voiced a concern about the wording in the Celebration and Rewards and Fundraising sections. She and Mary Ella Luft objected to the implication of "only healthy" treats being offered to the children on special occasions. They did agree that only healthy options should be given to children, and that the occasional cupcake should not be banned. Superintendent Ciccone said that there is no banning, but healthy options are encouraged, such as cupcake recipes using applesauce instead of oil.

Other activities that promote wellness for staff and students were discussed including P.E., recess and staff activities such as Biggest Loser, etc.

Dee Adorno commented that the policy revision is “kind to kids with health issues, i.e. diabetes, etc.

The numbering of the policy was talked about and Marti White asked about any costs to the district with the revised policy. Madeline Illinger stated that the revision reflects current practices. It was concluded that Madeline Illinger would follow through on the possibility of revising the wording in the Celebrations and Rewards Section to include the word “encouraged” in the sentence that states all foods offered on the school campus will meet or exceed the CT Nutrition Standards.

It was agreed that the next policy committee will meet on March 31 at 4:30 p.m.

IV. Adjourn: Moved by Dee Adorno and seconded by Kim Walker to adjourn at 5:56 p.m. Vote unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Walker, Board Secretary

Cecilia S. Lester, Board Recording Clerk