

GARDNER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Policy Subcommittee

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 24, 2020

1:30 PM

Superintendent's Conference Room

70 Waterford Street, Gardner, MA

In Attendance: Mrs. Anne Hurst, Chair; Mrs. Rachel Cormier, Member; Mrs. Jennifer Pelavin, Member

Absent:

Also in Attendance: Dr. Catherine Goguen, Chief Academic Officer; Mr. Mark Pellegrino, Superintendent; Ms. Joyce West, Pupil Personnel Services Director

Mrs. Hurst, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:34 PM.

A motion was made by Mrs. Pelavin and seconded by Mrs. Cormier to approve the minutes of the December 5, 2019 Policy Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

The following policies were tabled to the next Subcommittee meeting for further review and discussion:

- JLCA – Physical Examinations of Students
- JLCC – Communicable Diseases
- JLCD – Administering Medication to Students

Policy EEAG – Student Transportation in Private Vehicles was reviewed and discussed. Dr. Goguen stated that the District does not currently have a policy regarding transportation of students in private vehicles and it is a practice that is sometimes necessary. She also stated that having such a policy was recommended by the Massachusetts Association of Pupil Transportation as part of their review of District transportation. Dr. Goguen presented a draft of a policy for discussion and adoption. The Subcommittee recommended minor grammatical changes for the purpose of clarification, and the deletion of language regarding district liability insurance. A motion was made by Mrs. Pelavin and seconded by Mrs. Cormier to send the policy with the recommended changes to the February full School Committee for a first reading for adoption. The motion passed unanimously.

Policies JFABF – Educational Opportunities for Children in Foster Care and JFABD – Homeless Students: Enrollment Rights and Services were reviewed and discussed. Ms. West stated that both policies were a new requirement and recently developed, however, the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) recently released updated versions of these policies with the most recent regulation requirements. Ms. West recommended that the District replace these current policies with the newly updated MASC policies. A motion was made by Mrs.

Pelavin and seconded by Mrs. Cormier to send policies JFABF and JFABD with the recommended changes to the February full School Committee for a first reading. The motion passed unanimously.

Policy JJA – Student Travel was reviewed and discussed. At the December Subcommittee meeting, Dr. Goguen stated that this policy is referenced by the MASC as File JJH. She made a recommendation to change the File name to JJH to reflect MASC policy references and the policy was to be sent to the February full School Committee for a first reading to reflect the file name change. Dr. Goguen presented the policy again AT THE January meeting to add language regarding specific requirements for driver safety and the selection of transportation vendors. A motion was made by Mrs. Pelavin and seconded by Mrs. Cormier to send the policy to the February full School Committee with the recommended changes for a first reading. The motion passed unanimously.

Policy JLC – Student Health Services and Requirements was reviewed and discussed. Dr. Goguen stated that revisions to this policy were recommended by the District Nurse Leader, Ms. Rebecca McCaffrey. A motion was made by Mrs. Pelavin and seconded by Mrs. Cormier to send the policy with the recommended changes to the February full School Committee for a first reading. The motion passed unanimously.

Policy JLCCB – Immunization of Students was reviewed and discussed. The Subcommittee recommended the addition of a reference to the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 2001 in the reference section of the policy, and one minor formatting change. A motion was made by Mrs. Pelavin and seconded by Mrs. Cormier to send the policy with the recommended changes to the February full School Committee for a first reading for adoption. The motion passed unanimously.

Policy JLCCA – HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus)/AIDS (Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome), and Other Blood-Borne Infections was reviewed and discussed. Mrs. Pelavin stated that the MASC did not have such a policy, nor could she find another district with such a policy. A motion was made by Mrs. Pelavin and seconded by Mrs. Cormier to send the policy to the February full School Committee for a vote to remove the policy from the District Policy Manual. The motion passed unanimously.

Policy KA – School/Community Relations was reviewed and discussed. The Subcommittee recommended that the District replace the currently worded policy with the updated MASC recommended policy for School/Community Relations. A motion was made by Mrs. Pelavin and seconded by Mrs. Cormier to send policy KA as revised to reflect the MASC policy KA to the February full School Committee for a first reading. The motion passed unanimously.

Policy KCDA – Computer Donations was reviewed and discussed. Dr. Goguen stated that revisions to this policy were recommended by the Technology Director, Mr. Robert O’Keefe. A motion was made by Mrs. Pelavin and seconded by Mrs. Cormier to send the policy with the recommended changes to the February full School Committee for a first reading. The motion passed unanimously.

Policy KHC – Distribution of Notices by Students was reviewed and discussed. The Subcommittee Recommended that the title of the Policy be changed to “Distribution of Notices *to* Students”. The Subcommittee also recommended clarification of language regarding the posting and distribution of notices. A motion was made by Mrs. Pelavin and seconded by Mrs. Cormier to send the policy with the recommended changes to the February full School Committee for a first reading. The motion passed unanimously.

The schedule of Policy Subcommittee Meetings will be as follows:

- Friday, February 28, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.
- Friday, March 27, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.
- Friday, May 1, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.

A motion was made by Mrs. Pelavin and seconded by Mrs. Cormier to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.