

GARDNER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Policy Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday September 6, 2023
4:30 PM
Superintendent's Conference Room
160 Elm Street, Gardner, MA 01440

In Attendance: Mrs. Rachel Cormier, Member; Mrs. Shannon Ward-Leighton, Member

Absent: Mrs. Anne Hurst, Chair;

Also in Attendance: Dr. Mark Pellegrino, Superintendent; Dr. Catherine Goguen, Chief Academic Officer; Ms. Courtney Dunn, Grants, Communications, & Compliance Coordinator; Mr. Martin Gray, Community Member

Mrs. Cormier called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m.

A motion was made by Mrs. Ward-Leighton and seconded by Mrs. Cormier to approve the minutes of the June 22, 2023 Policy Meeting with the deletion of a typo where both Mrs. Cormier and Mrs. Hurst were noted as seconding a motion. So moved.

The following policies were reviewed and determined that no changes were required. Therefore, the policies will be updated as "Reviewed September, 2023":

- EEAG – Student Transportation in Private Vehicles
- FF – Naming New Facilities

The following MASC policies were reviewed and deemed to be redundant to Massachusetts General Law, or not relevant to the District. Therefore they were not recommended to be sent to the full School Committee for adoption:

- EEAA – Walkers and Riders
- EEAE – School Bus Safety Program
- EEAEB – Drug and Alcohol Testing for School Bus and Commercial Vehicle Drivers
- EFC – Free and Reduced Price Food Services

The following policy was recommended for removal as it is redundant to other policies, and will, therefore, be placed on the October full School Committee agenda for a vote to remove it from the policy manual:

- GA Personnel Policies Goals: A motion was made by Mrs. Ward-Leighton and seconded by Mrs. Cormier to send to the October meeting for a vote for removal. So moved.

Policy ECAF – Security Cameras in Schools and Policy EEAA – Use of Video Cameras on School Buses were reviewed and discussed. Dr. Goguen presented changes recommended by

Mr. Mark Hawke, Director of Finance and Operations. Mr. Hawke's recommendation was to combine District file EEAA with the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) Policy ECAF to create one policy regarding the use of security cameras. The District does not currently have Policy ECAF. The Subcommittee requested that the recommended changes be made and placed on the October Policy meeting agenda for further review and discussion.

Policy EEA – Transportation Policy was reviewed and discussed. Dr. Goguen presented changes recommended by Mr. Hawke. Mr. Hawke's recommendation was to replace the District Policy EEA language with the MASC recommended Policy EEA language as it is more concise and less procedural. A motion was made by Mrs. Ward-Leighton and seconded by Mrs. Cormier to send Policy EEA with the recommended changes to the October full School Committee Meeting for a first read. So moved.

Policy EEAEC – Student Conduct on School Buses was reviewed and discussed. Dr. Goguen stated that the only difference between the District Policy EEAEC and the MASC recommended Policy EEAEC was the file name and recommended that the District Policy file name be amended to match the MASC recommended policy. A motion was made by Mrs. Ward-Leighton and seconded by Mrs. Cormier to send Policy EEAEC with the recommended changes to the October full School Committee Meeting for a first read. So moved.

Policy EEAJ – Policy Regarding Motor Vehicle Idling on School Grounds was reviewed and discussed. Dr. Goguen stated that the only difference between the District Policy EEAJ and the MASC recommended Policy EEAJ was the Title and recommended that the District Policy title be amended to match the MASC recommended policy. A motion was made by Mrs. Ward-Leighton and seconded by Mrs. Cormier to send Policy EEAJ with the recommended changes to the October full School Committee Meeting for a first read. So moved.

Policy GBA – Equal Employment Opportunity was reviewed and discussed. Ms. Dunn stated that some of the language regarding protected classes was incomplete and recommended adding protected class language from the MASC recommended Policy GBA. A motion was made by Mrs. Ward-Leighton and seconded by Mrs. Cormier to send Policy GBA with the recommended changes to the October full School Committee Meeting for a first read. So moved.

The next Policy Subcommittee meeting will occur on Wednesday, October 4, 2023 at 4:30 p.m. in the Superintendent's Conference Room.

A motion was made by Mrs. Ward-Leighton and seconded by Mrs. Cormier to adjourn the meeting. So moved. The meeting adjourned at 4:53 p.m.