

Policy Sub committee meeting - 1/19/21

In Attendance:

Members

Sean Reardon, Sheila Spalding, David Hochheiser

Also: Bruce Menin, Sean Gallagher

Proposed Agenda:

**Newburyport School Committee
Policy Sub-Committee Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, January 19, 2021**

Agenda Items

1. Review draft Statement of Norms and Ethics (attached)
2. Calendar - choose regular time to meet each month (last Tuesday, Wed or Thursday?)
3. Goals - our current pipeline
 - bring Second reading and adoption of Fundraising Policy to SC
 - Review of Student Discipline Policy JIC
 - Survey of our current policy. (school administrators, Michael Eatman, SEPAC officers,
student representatives and local mental health experts)
 - Review discipline code in NHS Student handbook and answers from surveys to inform
 - revision of policies to reflect the restorative justice approach of the current administration.

Policies discussed in this meeting:

SC Member Ethics BCB

SC Norms of Interaction BCC

SC Operating Principles BCD

Future Policy Review:

Student Discipline Policy JIC

Student Absences and Excuses JH

Minutes:

Code of Ethics Discussion

- Seems to be boiling down 4 policies into one.
 - The ethics doc we've been discussing and signing is not in
 - New version drafted by BM
 - Tewksbury, Concord, etc.
 - Reviewed by lawyer
 - DH worked to separate the way things have been handled and the conversations that have led to this from the merits of the norms.
 - We do need some sort of documents about norms and ethics

 - 1) Impression of school committee behavior from the public seems disrespectful by members of the public. Norms are statements of how we intend to act and operate.
 - 2) Limits to the use of texts and social media during our meetings. Should we be combining the four policies? Should we be adopting MASC social media policy? Lawyer took out references to specific laws.
 - 3) No surprises statement is in our current docs
 - 4) Communication policy about discussions with the public. Vice chair responding is unsustainable when too many come in. Canned "we've got your email" response has also gone away. Question about how we should be responding to emails? Can / should individuals be responding? Are we sure that emails are being passed along to appropriate district staff? SG has been great about letting SC know people are being answered.
 - 5) This comes from our older docs. Requests from committee members to schools ought to come from the committee of the whole.
 - 6) The super, not the SC is the CEO of the district and comes with a chain of command for protocols. This will have to leave room for questions from the packet. Questions about the presentations can be helpful for the presenters. Perhaps questions come back to just the super, to ensure we're shy of the OML
 - 7) Rest are rather boilerplate
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- Are we intending to replace the policies we currently have?
 - Should we bring this up for a first reading?
 - Are we able to help members understand what the changes look like from the four current policies to this?
 - We may want an annotated version of the originals to show members for when we vote.
 - Can we schedule the next policy meeting for the week of 2/8 and then bring the first draft to 2/23?
 - Can we just provide the annotations or do we want an additional discussion?
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- Scheduling Policy meetings: consistency would be great, but it's a bit unrealistic. We're going to try for the last Tuesday of the month.
 - Feb 1: 2nd reading of the fundraising.
 - Monday 22nd 6 pm Discipline policy. Review current goals and think about new ones.