

**Policy and Procedures Sub Committee Meeting
August 7, 2019**

A **Policy & Procedures Sub Committee meeting of the Revere School Committee** took place on **Wednesday, August 7, 2019 at 1:00 P.M.** in the Superintendent's Conference Room, Revere High School.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Mrs. Stacey Rizzo, Ms. Susan Gravellese and Fred A. Sannella.

Also in attendance was Ms. Carol Tye.

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Stacey Rizzo, at 1:04 P.M.

A. Entrance Policy

This policy was discussed in regards to not being allowed to ask for immunization and/or vaccination records if parents do not offer the information.

Students are allowed to enter the school system without immunizations if there are sincere religious beliefs documented by a religious leader or if deemed medically dangerous per doctor. Parents who do not comply with immunization guidelines for their children are still allowed to have their children attend public school.

Committee questioned whether there is a timeline given to parents to encourage the immunization guidelines. The committee expressed concern regarding students who are ill or staff that are pregnant being exposed to possible disease from non-immunized students.

Dr. Kelly stated that the law states that a public school cannot exclude students do to non-compliance of vaccinations. Dr. Vadala will speak with school nurses to ensure they are following up with parents who do not return the forms in a timely manner (30 days) unless parents state above reasons for not vaccinating their children. Dr. Kelly stated that all school nurses, PIC staff and principals will be notified by central office regarding timeline guidelines for immunizing students entering school.

B. School Admission

This policy was discussed in regards to its requirement for age of students by September 1st. The committee discussed various factors that could influence readiness beyond simply the age of the child. Topics included those discussed previously such as whether or not the child had attended preschool and general variability in cognitive and behavioral readiness.

The committee discussed whether or not testing could be used to determine readiness in both areas. Concerns about perceived inequities in who is admitted early versus who is not were highlighted. The committee discussed the possibility of a different date being more appropriate and determined this would result in the same concerns no matter which date is picked.

The subcommittee recommends that age on September 1st remain the entrance criterion.

C. Student Handbooks

The committee discussed the following edits/corrections that are needed for the handbooks:

Elementary School

Based on the recommendation from our Comprehensive Program Review completed by the Department of elementary and secondary Education, a paragraph was added to the bullying policy.

Mrs. Rizzo questioned whether the policies from School Committee could be confused with handbook policies. Dr. Kelly stated that the School Committee sets forth the policies that guide the school district. However, student handbooks are necessary to guide parents and students as they navigate the various schools and their individual requirements. It was suggested that the handbooks could be viewed as procedures instead of policies. All handbook policies are aligned with the School Committee policies but changing the name to procedures could be confusing to parents and students.

Typographical errors regarding student attendance, the school logo, and uniformity of naming of the covers were identified for correction.

Consistency in naming of specific groups in the discrimination section was identified for review.

High School Handbook

Committee questioned/discussed why there is no in-house suspension. Dr. Kelly explained that state law Chapter 222 identifies all exclusions from class as a suspension regardless of if it is in school or out. Thus, when students have does something that requires a suspension, they are externally suspended. However, we are working across schools to minimize the number of suspensions by employing more restorative justice practices.

The tobacco policy will now state that the school will confiscate any tobacco products.

Outdated language about calling for emergency assistance was removed.

Based on the recommendation from our Comprehensive Program Review completed by the Department of elementary and secondary Education, a paragraph was added to the bullying policy.

Consistency in naming of specific groups in the discrimination section was identified for review.

The hat policy was updated to include information about the pilot program.

Sea Coast Handbook

Typographical errors regarding student attendance, the school logo, and uniformity of naming of the covers were identified for correction.

The new Electronic Device Policies regarding Yonder were discussed. The detailed description was included so that parents will understand the importance of this policy.

The wording of outside prom dates was updated.

Graduation requirement wording was updated from Carnegie Units to Units of Proficiency. There was discussion of reviewing credits from transfer students to match what would equal to Sea Coast Units of Proficiencies.

There was a discussion to correct the cell phone being confiscated which does not align with new electronic device procedure. Dr. Kelly will have Mr. Magno correct the wording.

Consistency in naming of specific groups in the discrimination section was identified for review.

Faculty Handbook

Typographical errors regarding student attendance, the school logo, and uniformity of naming of the covers were identified for correction.

Consistency in naming of specific groups in the discrimination section was identified for review.

Athletic Handbook

Typographical errors regarding student attendance, the school logo, and uniformity of naming of the covers were identified for correction.

Consistency in naming of specific groups in the discrimination section was identified for review.

Mr. Sannella made a motion that the committee recommends the handbooks for approval with the above changes.

Motion to adjourn 2:40 P.M. by Mr. Sannella.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne K. Kelly, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools

DK/rp