

School Administrative District No. 53

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Excellence in Education

Michael A. Gallagher
Superintendent of Schools

Policy Committee

Minutes

11/09/09

Members in attendance: S. Nolan, J. Laux, Administrators S. Shorey and M. Gallagher

The meeting opened with a discussion regarding who would chair the Policy Committee. It was determined that Susan Nolan would chair the committee taking over from previous Policy Committee chair Rosalie Williams. The committee then set to work reviewing the policies that had been presented to the board for the first reading at the November 2 board meeting.

Item 1 Policy 5.05, Crisis Intervention. Two additional recommendations were made and approved by the Policy Committee, to strike the words “to be” in the first paragraph after the list of emergency situations, and to strike the words “dealing with” and replace those two words with the word “in” in the first sentence of the first paragraph. No other changes were recommended, and the policy will be brought to the December 7, 2009 board meeting for adoption.

Policy 1.01, Educational Goals – a few additional recommendations were made for modifications to the policy, and a discussion was held regarding the goal statement at the end of the policy regarding what should occur with that goal statement. The first sentence of the policy was modification to read The MSAD #53 board of directors ...” and the word “competence” was changed to “preparation” describing number 7 on the opportunities list. On the paragraph preceding the goal statement of the respective boards the words “during school year 1996-97” was struck and new words were added “and will be reviewed every five years”. The committee then made the recommendation to add a policy reference to the Strategic Plan. In this way the goal statement could be part of the district’s Strategic Plan and a reminder to review the policy every five years. It was determined that the goal statement of the policy be reviewed by the Advisory Committee to determine whether or not the goal statement is still reflective of the desires of the MSAD #53 board of directors and the MCI trustees. The policy will be brought to the December 7, 2009 board meeting for adoption, and any changes to the goal statement

suggested by the Advisory Committee will be returned to the Policy Committee for recommendation to the full board.

Policy 1.02, Academic Freedom – the first sentence was modified to read “The MSAD #53 Board of Directors ...” and on number one the word “attempt” was struck. In the second statement of academic goals the words “deal with” was struck and replaced with “respond to”. No other modifications were made to the policy, and it will be brought to the December 7, 2009 board meeting for adoption.

Policy 1.03, Staff Involvement in Decision Making – the Policy Committee determined that there were no additional recommendations for modifications to this policy. It will be brought to the December 7, 2009 board meeting for adoption.

Policy 5.09, Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Students – it was recommended to modify the first sentence to read “The MSAD #53 Board of Directors ...” Additional changes included spelling “proficient” in letter E correctly, and striking the words “have a way to” from letter F. It was also determined that we would add some policy references regarding MLR, SAT, and instruction.

Policy 5.10, Section 504 was recommended to be deleted. It is the same as the Free and Public Education (FAPE) policy that was recently adopted.

Policy 8.12, Use of MEA’s was recommended for deletion since the local assessment system is no longer a mandatory part of reporting to the Maine DOE and it no longer exists.

Item 3. The Policy Committee took some time to discuss the additional responsibilities that had been added to the description for Policy Committee responsibilities. A couple of modifications were made to the earlier recommendations. It was determined that the committee would not be responsible for determining procedures, and the words “to be recommended to the full board” were added to the first responsibility, therefore, number four of the committee responsibilities was struck. It was felt the committee should add the responsibility of researching and clarifying policy issues when questions arise.

It was recommended that all the mandated policies be italicized in the table of contents for the Policy Committee’s use so that they would know which of the board’s policies are required.

Being no further business the committee adjourned at 6:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael A. Gallagher

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