



Respectful, Responsible, Safe & Prepared

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
December 7, 2023 – 5:30 p.m.
Waupaca High School Community Room and [Live Stream](#)

Welcome and Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chairperson Ron Brooks at 5:29 p.m.

Roll Call:

Present in the WHS Community Room: All members of the Committee were present (Chairperson Ron Brooks, Molly McDonald, and Steve Klismet). Additionally, Board members Dale Feldt, Betty Manion, and Nic Genske were present.

Also Present:

Present in the WHS Community Room: Ron Saari, Sandy Lucas, Laurie Schmidt, and Evelyn Kabke.

Approval of Agenda:

A motion was made by Steve Klismet and seconded by Molly McDonald to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

Review of Board Meeting Norms:

The Committee reviewed their collective commitments.

New NEOLA Policies:

Policy 8121 Personal Background Check – Contracted Services:

This policy was brought back to the Committee for further discussion because Chairperson Brooks requested the language be revised to require background checks for anyone who is on District property, not just those with ongoing contact with students. He added that it should be included in the contractual language that the burden of proof lies with the vendor to provide background checks for their employees. The Committee agreed with the policy as revised.

Policy 8805 Flags, Signage, and Displays and AG8805 Professional Email and Correspondence Signature:

The Committee agreed with the addition of the first paragraph and Mr. Brooks advised that the word “religious” was added in the fourth paragraph to be consistent. In the second to the last paragraph, the reference to educate not indoctrinate was stricken and instead the phrase “teach children how to think, not what to think” was added in its place. Also the specific items listed in the last paragraph were stricken, and language stating that “our entire School District is a safe place for all students” was added. However, Director of Student Services Laurie Schmidt suggested revising that sentence to read: “The goal of our School District is to be a safe place for all students.” The Committee agreed with all of the above-referenced revisions.

Mr. Saari advised that per discussion, AG8805 was created to go along with Policy 8805 and pertains only to email and correspondence signatures. It was suggested that the usual confidential language that is required on all District emails be listed as well.

Discussion then ensued whether vehicles with flags, bumper stickers, and other displays on or in vehicles would be allowed in the District's parking lot. Mr. Saari advised that students do not lose their First Amendment rights with this policy, but it is a fine line of what is acceptable and it will be taken care of on an individual case by case basis, approaching it as a teaching moment for the student. It is a privilege to park in the parking lot and if they refuse to remove the display it could mean they lose their parking privileges. Any display is up to interpretation and discretion of administration, and may also involve consultation with the Police Liaison Officer and/or legal counsel. It was pointed out that a policy cannot be created that would cover every situation without being too prohibitive.

Revised NEOLA Policies:

Policies 3139 / 4139 Staff Discipline

Policy 5517 Student Anti-Harassment

Policy 5530 Student Use or Possession of Intoxicants, Drugs, or Paraphernalia

Policy 7440.01 Video Surveillance and Electronic Monitoring

Policy 8146 Notification of Educational Options

Policy 8310 Public Records

Policy 8420 School Safety

Policy 8500 Food Services

Policy 8531 Free and Reduced-Price Meals

Policy 9211 District-Support Organizations

The Committee agreed with the above-listed revised policies as written.

Policy 5113 Open Enrollment Program (Inter-District):

Mr. Saari advised that attendance language was added because if we terminate an open enrolled student, it is based on truancy. This follows state statute and is how things are currently done. It was asked if there were any mandatory reporting requirements of behavior issues with open enrolled students. Ms. Schmidt advised that there are only four reasons for denying an open enrollment and behavior issues is not one of them. The four reasons for doing so are: space, special education space, expulsion, and attendance issues. The Committee agreed with the policy as written.

Policy 5200 Attendance:

There was some discussion relating to the deletion of vacations under paragraph C Parent-Excused Pre-Planned Absence. Mr. Saari advised that it was deleted because they want to discourage pulling students out for a family vacation. The Committee thought it should remain in the policy and would be best if parents were upfront and notified the school ahead of time. However, it was noted that this is just a list of examples of reasons and is not all inclusive. The Committee ultimately agreed with the language as written.

Discussion then turned to how tardies are counted. The Committee did not agree with tardies being counted as being absent for part of a school day and inquired whether those then are counted toward the maximum of 10 absent days per year. Mr. Saari advised that if the student comes with a note from a parent or if there are justifiable reasons for being tardy as determined by the principal it can be excused. Many times there is an understanding between the teacher and the student. Tardies are counted differently than absences in the attendance record until they hit the maximum of 10 days. The Committee agreed with the language as written.

Policy 5350 Suicide Prevention, Intervention, and Postvention:

Per Chairperson Ron Brooks' request, Ms. Schmidt explained the meaning of the last paragraph. She advised that she did not think this paragraph was needed and suggested it be stricken. She also advised that the District has a crisis plan procedure in place that is strictly followed.

Ms. Schmidt also suggested striking the listing of the support team members as these could change, but it was pointed out that it references the support team "may" include.

The Committee agreed to strike the last paragraph and that all other language will remain as written.

A motion was made by Molly McDonald and seconded by Steve Klismet to move the two new NEOLA policies (V.A-B) and 14 revised NEOLA policies (VI.A-M) with the revisions as discussed to the full Board for approval. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

Scheduling More than One Board/Committee Meeting on the Same Day:

Board President Feldt advised that he will work with Mr. Saari and Ms. Lucas to schedule two meetings on the same day whenever possible if they both can be completed within a reasonable amount of time.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Molly McDonald and seconded by Steve Klismet to adjourn the meeting at 6:33 p.m. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.