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Regional School District 13
Minutes of the Policy Committee
135A Pickett Lane Durham CT 06422
September 6, 2016

Committee members present: Norm Hicks, Bob Moore, Jeremy Renninghoff, Bob Yamartino, Lucy Petrella
Administration Present: Kathryn Veronesi

Chairman Norm Hicks called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM Tuesday September 6, 2016.

1. Public Comment:
   - Missy Booth spoke on the need for paraprofessionals ("paras") or aides for the kindergarten classes at John Lyman School citing the current policy for such an aide for class sizes over 18 students and noting the conditions for need in the academic and non-academic classrooms or events. She raised special concern with bus and lunch times.
   - Carissa Connell raised similar concerns and indicated that changing "paras" in classes is confusing to the students.
   - Amy Schaefer stressed that Kindergarten formed the foundation of learning and school support and the need for 'paras" in a class of 19.
   - Emily Delgrego echoed the need raised by others.

2. Approval of Agenda: Jeremy Renninghoff moved the approval of the Agenda and seconded by Robert Moore. Motion approved.

3. Approval of Minutes: A motion to approve the Minutes of the March 28, 2016 meeting of the Policy Committee was made by Mr. Renninghoff and seconded by Mr. Hicks. Motion approved with abstentions by Mr. Yamartino and Mrs. Petrella.

4. Purchasing procedures 3320: The Educational Resource Committee (ERC) approved the change from a limit of $5000 to $25000 for the need to secure quotations for the purchase of equipment or services at a previous meeting. This action is to amend the policy to reflect that action. A discussion of the purpose and similarity to town practices occurred. A consensus to move the policy to the full Board was agreed.

5. Sales, Disposal of Books, Equipment & Materials 3260: Dr. Veronesi explained the changes to the policy; (1) the words "consistent with the regulations" was dropped as being unnecessary as it is required and (2) the disposal of old books was needed due the volume of old books generated by the closing of Korn School. Mr. Yamartino asked that "red line" versions of the changes be included for ease of understanding the proposed changes. Mrs. Petrella asked about any income from the sale and was advised all income went into the general fund. It was suggested that ERC record any such earnings. The Policy was referred to the Board for approval.

6. Meeting Conduct 9240: Mr. Hicks indicated that the policy marked 9240 was an example of a policy used in Wethersfield and the actual policy to be considered was 1120, Community Relations at Board of Education Meetings. Mr. Yamartino requested the item be tabled for later discussion. Item was tabled.

7. Class Size 6113: Dr. Veronesi explained that the current policy of always requiring an "aide" in all kindergarten classes of over 15 students was not being achieved in practice and suggested that the following be considered: (1) The policy be suspended temporarily, (2) the policy be amended to provide the change the wording, and (3) or staff be added to comply with the policy as written. She explained the history of the situation and the current times and classes where paras are not provided in Brewster and John Lyman schools. Efforts have been made to add para time where available, but all academic and non-academic classes and activities are not fully covered at either school. The cost of providing a para in all academic classes was requested by Mrs. Petrella. Mr. Yamartino suggested that funds should be available under this year's payroll line item. It was recommended by several and concurred by all to bring the policy back to the Board with no change and be adhered to.

8. Use of Regional District 13 Properties 1330: Dr. Veronesi indicated that this issue is a result of the local Falcons Cheerleading program request to continue to use Korn School. They could not afford the required use and payment of custodial services at their practices; however they have made arrangements to use Strong School. While the fee schedule may need to be modified for Korn School it needed to be acted on by the utilization committee first. The issue of further uses of Korn School was referred to the Utilization Committee.

9. Discussion of non-board members on board subcommittees: Mr. Yamartino proposed the inclusion of non-board members on the various subcommittees of the board to add expertise and meet the time demands of the several monthly meetings. It was agreed that Mr. Hicks would check with attorney on and possible legal implications and Mr. Moore would request information from CABE on such practices by other school boards.

10. Public Comment:
    - Elaine Diaz liked the idea of non-members serving, having more teachers on the board committees and did not support pulling paras from other assignments.
    - Missy Booth indicated that the teachers did not come to her with issues but that she asked them what was happening on the kindergartens.
    - Amy Schaefer volunteers and noticed a lack of parent volunteers in the schools due to working parents.

11. Adjournment: Mr. Renninghoff moved to adjourn and seconded by Mr. Moore, motion was approved at 9:10 PM.

    Submitted by Robert E. Moore