

POLICY-COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes

Monday, May 8, 2017 8:30 a.m.

Attendees:

B. Sargent, W. Doran, A. Shinn. C. Filler, J. Moss, K. Higgins, K. Tucker

1. Committee members engaged in a discussion with the administrators present around incidents that do not rise to the level of HIB and the types of reviews that would be held for these. The committee members were satisfied that the schools have in place and practice a variety of appropriate methods to handle these incidents that are currently sufficient. The administrators were asked to consider if there might be additional policies or revisions of current policies needed to help them be more diligent. They were also asked to consider if there was training or surveillance equipment that would aid them. They did not have any immediate suggestions but would consider the question and pass any suggestion along through the Superintendent.
2. Policies for Second Read
 - i. The committee recommends the approval of the following policies for second read.
 - o 0000.01 Introduction
 - o 0000.02 Introduction
 - o 0000.03 Introduction
 - o P 2320 Independent Study Programs
 - o P 2415.06 Unsafe School Choice Option
 - o P/R 2460 Special Education
 - o R 2460.8 Special Education – Free and Appropriate Public Education
 - o R 2460.9 Special Education – Transition from Early Intervention Programs to Preschool Programs
 - o R 2460.15 Special Education – Inservice Training Needs for Professional and Paraprofessional Staff
 - o R 2460.16 Special Education – Instructional Material to Blind or Print-Disabled Students
 - o P 2467 Surrogate Parents and Foster Parents
3. Policies for First Read
 - i. The committee recommends the approval of the following policies for first read.
 - P 2464 Gifted and Talented Students
 - P 2622 Student Assessment
 - P/R 3160 Physical Examination
 - P/R 4160 Physical Examination
 - P/R 5116 Education of Homeless Children
 - P 7446 School Security Program
 - P 8350 Records Retention
 - R 2460.1 Special Education – Location, Identification, and Referral
4. Policy #5330.04 Administering an Opioid Antidote
 - o This policy was reviewed by the school nurses for a second time with no recommendation made. The School Physician will be asked for their input.
5. Drug Screening for new hires
 - o The committee recommends that drug testing for new hires be included in Policy 3160

6. Wrestling and 5th grade students

The RMS Wrestling Coaches (David deVelder and Bruno Somma) asked if we might consider allowing 5th grade students to participate in practices only on the team. This would allow the coaches to groom student athletes for 6th grade wrestling, teach them the etiquette involved with meets, and begin to train them in wrestling moves in a safe, non-competitive environment. Dr. Sargent supports this and is working with Mr. Nigro to see if the Wrestling Team could hold practices at HBS, which would eliminate traveling for 5th graders at the end of the day and also free up much needed gymnasium space during the winter sports season. In reviewing this with our board attorney, the response was:

“The easiest way to accomplish this would be to amend Policy 2431 to allow 5th graders to participate in Wrestling practices but not competitions. This could be done by making a brief addition to Section 1 of the Policy’s Eligibility Standards: “A student in grade 5 is eligible to participate in practice but not competition in the Wrestling program if he/she meets the academic requirements imposed on students in grades 6 through 8 for participation.”

Amending the Policy like this is cleaner than trying to make a 5th grade Wrestling “club.” The primary issue with making it a club would be compensation. If the Board were to approve it as a club, it would be difficult for it to deny a stipend if the coach demanded one in addition to the stipend for coaching the team since the Board would have separately approved both a club and a team. The Board would likely need to negotiate with the RTEA to include language in the CNA which would clarify that the Wrestling coach only receives the coaching stipend. Without language in the CNA, I can see the Board losing a grievance on this issue if the coach/RTEA ever got a little greedy in the future. All of this is avoided by amending Policy 2431 to allow 5th graders to participate in practice but excluding them from competition.

The committee recommends this approach. The attorney suggested that this may open a path where parents of 5th graders wish their children to participate on other RMS teams. Cross country and track are the only other “non-cut” sports and this would be an option for future consideration. It would be unusual for a 5th grade student to try out for a middle school team and successfully earn a spot.

7. *Readington News* articles

June Visual and Performing Arts