



## POLICY/COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

March 24, 2025

Virtual Meeting - 4:00 p.m.

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Committee Members: Ellen DePinto, Chair  
Pamela Cassidy, Beth Fiore, Linda Rad

Administrative Staff: Dr. Jonathan Hart, Superintendent of Schools  
Jason Bohm, SBA/Board Secretary

1. **Policy Tracking Document for Review & Discussion:** The committee reviewed the timeline and process for the tracking document and provided feedback on how it is going. The committee agreed to review and discuss the policies in one section, make the necessary changes and then bring them to the full board for first read before moving on to the next series in the manual. We also discussed bringing certain policies to the appropriate committees for input on policies that pertain to their specialties.
2. **Alert 234:** Both policies will move forward to the full board for first read.
  - a. **Policy 5111 - Eligibility of Resident and Nonresident Students:** This policy required updating in order to comply with new statute N.J.S.A. 18A:38-3 which required tuition payment from parents of nonresident students. The new statute was inconsistent with nonresident students of teaching staff members and required some revisions. We revised our language to distinguish between nonresident teaching staff and nonresident non-teaching staff according to the new requirements. Both teaching staff and non-teaching staff who do not reside in the district will be permitted to enroll their children in the educational program of the school district with the payment of tuition if the child's educational program can be provided in the district. Adjustments were made to the entrance and exit dates of students who anticipate moving to and from the district to allow us to include them in our enrollment numbers and have them count in our NJSLA test scores
  - b. **Policy 8500 - Food Service:** The "Working Class Families' Anti-Hunger Act" has been revised. The revisions to the statutes include new terminology, expansion of income eligibility to qualify students for free meals, and additional parental notification of school meal information. Food service policies often undergo revisions when there is a new President or legislative action. This policy is mandated and must be adopted by the Board if the district participates in the National School

Lunch Program as it is a United States Department of Agriculture audit requirement.

3. **Key Communicators Meeting** - Rescheduled for May 6. Dr. Hart has received a positive response to his invitation with many yes responses including two 8th Grade Civics Students. He is looking forward to a great meeting.
4. The following Bylaws required further discussion after our last meeting when we reviewed the new policy tracking document. After our discussions, the committee made the following determinations:
  - 0155.01: Board Member Participation of Board Meetings Using Electronic Devices** - The committee decided to abolish this policy that was implemented during Covid to allow for remote board meetings. Abolishing this policy means board members will attend all meetings in person with no remote login option available to them.
  - 0168: Recording Board Meetings** - The committee agreed that recording of committee meetings will not be allowed and that we will hold off on including the use of AI tools for taking minutes at this time.
  - 0169: Board Member Use of Electronic Mail/Internet** - The committee agreed to add a paragraph to this policy, instead of creating a separate policy, to state that board members are to be guided by the code of ethics when it comes to social networking sites.
  - 0175: Contracts With Independent Consultants** - During our research on the Bylaws section of the manual we noticed that another district has a bylaw for contracts with Independent Consultants. After further discussion the committee determined that it will be best to revisit this policy when we review the 6000 series of the policy manual to see where we can best incorporate this into one of our existing policies since contract processes are strongly guided by purchasing regulations and are inclusive of vendors and independent consultants.

Agenda items: 5111, 8500

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 16, 2025 @ 4PM