



POLICY/COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

August 30, 2023

Virtual Meeting - 4:00 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Jennifer Wolf, Chair
Jodi Bettermann, Michele Mencer

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

Minutes

1. Sick Leave Updates
 - a. Policy 1642.01 - Sick Leave
 - i. P.L. 2023, c. 95 was signed into law on July 3, 2023 which revised statutes N.J.S.A.18A:30-1 and N.J.S.A. 18A:30-4 that address the requirements of sick leave for school district employees. The revisions to statute significantly expand the scope of allowable uses of sick leave for school district employees. The revisions to statute establish provisions for a Board to require certification, reasonable documentation, and advance notice for requests for sick leave. In response to these recent revisions Strauss Esmay created one new Policy and one new Regulation Guide to cover all school employees as the revisions to statute affect all employees in the school district equally. Policy and Regulation Guides 1642.01 have been revised to align with the new statutory requirements.
 - ii. Confirmed that FMLA would run concurrently to paid sick leave where FMLA is applicable.
 - b. Regulation 1642.01 - Sick Leave
2. Pronouns updates in Code, Statute and Policy – Tabled with the request of putting the topic forth on a future agenda when all committee members are present.
3. Advocacy
 - a. The committee brainstormed topics for advocacy including: utilizing the Hunterdon County School Board associates as a forum for advocacy, advocating to Hunterdon central to provide a forum for board members and administration to discuss topics affecting the district including challenges and opportunities, continuing to advocate for strong pension benefits for our teachers including recommending that former teachers be able to re-enter the pension program in the tier they were previously in and/or advocate for other retention tools. The committee expressed a commitment to advocate for the needs of Readington students and will solicit input from the full board.
4. School Calendar
 - a. Due to the settled teacher's contract, the calendar has an addition of February 16th as a ½ day for professional development.
 - b. The committee requested the district review potential iterations of the future school calendar to review on a future agenda.

5. Committee reviewed draft communication plan with proposed upcoming articles for September as “Welcome Back to School” (Dr Hart), “Summer Enrichment Reflections” (Ms. Krial/Ms. Ogden) and for October “Facilities: Capital Projects Completed this Past Summer and Cost Savings” (Mr. Bohm) and “Planned HSA Events for the Year” (Ms. Salaj).
 - a. Readington News has suspended publication. The district is continuing to explore new ways to reach all residents. The committee discussed the use of paid mailings to reach residents who may not have children in the district who receive Genesis blasts.
6. Agenda items: Policy 1642.01 and School Calendar
7. Next Meeting: October 12, 2023 4pm