

**Suffield Board of Education
Policy Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
October 27, 2015 – 7:00 a.m.
Central Office Conference Room**

Attendees: Lori D'Ostuni, Natalie Semyanko, Matt Service, Jeanne Gee, Karen Berasi

I. Call to Order: 7:06 a.m.

II. Policies for Review and Discussion:

Policy/Reg. 5135, Policy 6145, Policy 6145.22 and Reg. 6145.23 – Participation in Athletics/Extra Curricular Activities; Interscholastic Competition/Extracurricular Programs; Sportsmanship; and Appeals to the “C” Rule

Policy Chair D'Ostuni and high school principal, Steve Moccio met to finalize drafts of policies and regulations each had revised. Ms. D'Ostuni commended to the subcommittee Mr. Moccio's written communication skills which made their meeting very productive. After review of suggested changes the following policies or regulations were recommended to move to the board for 30-day read at the next board meeting – Policy/Reg 5135, Policy 6145, and Policy 6145.22 (with Mr. Moccio to revise for the next subcommittee meeting Regulation 6145.22 – Sportsmanship). Regulation 6145.23 (“C” Rule Appeal) is recommended to Dissolve at the next board meeting since the “C” Rule information has been moved to the Policy/Reg 5135 on Participation in Athletics/Extra Curricular Activities.

Policy 9311 – Formulation, Adoption, Amendment of Policies

In reviewing this policy, the discussion centered on the board having the ability to waive the 30 day read period and immediately adopt a policy, if warranted. Examples illustrated passed legislation where the start date came earlier (with debate that state law overrides board policy but with the override there is no need to wait for these policy changes) and improving operational processes (i.e. the recent policy change where there are now district credit cards for school purchases, replacing the past practice of putting items on personal credit cards for later reimbursement). The policy revisions were approved with a recommendation to go to 30-day read at the next board meeting.

Policy 5118 – Non-Resident Students – Affidavit Forms

The questions from the last subcommittee meeting on the number of non-resident students were answered with a final review of tuitions wording and deletion of sections not needed. The subcommittee recommended moving the policy to a 30-day read at the next board meeting. The revised affidavit forms from administration were also reviewed.

2016-2017 School Calendar

Administration spoke with internal stakeholders on the school calendar. The subcommittee decided not to consider the regional calendar (note: the calendars being reviewed both fell within the regional calendar parameters). Internally there did not seem to be an issue between starting school on Wednesday or Thursday. The final discussion revolved around

going to school on Columbus Day and Veterans Day. The subcommittee discussed having school on Veterans Day lends to more activities and opportunities to honor veterans' sacrifice and commitment to serving our country, but acknowledge that local veterans' feelings are split on students being in school. The subcommittee recommended both calendars be forwarded to the board for discussion and final approval on the start date and whether students should be in school on Columbus Day and Veterans Day.

III. Upcoming Policies

Online Learning for Credit Enhancement – The board would like phase two of online learning for credit (the first was for recovery, the second is for enhancement) to be researched and brought back to Policy Subcommittee.

Harassment Policies – There was a discussion of a number of incidents where employees have been uncomfortable by threatening or forceful wording used by parents. The board will review all harassment policies for end results of a safe, positive environment for everyone on school property or attending school activities.

IV. Upcoming Policies Policy Review – Process/Timeline

V. Adjournment: 8:57 a.m.