



Minutes

Policy Committee Meeting  
Waterford Board of Education  
15 Rope Ferry Road  
January 27, 2011

ATTEST:  
  
TOWN CLERK

11 FEB -3 PM 1:12

RECEIVED FOR RECORD  
WATERFORD, CT

- Present: Mr. Blevins, Mr. Egan, Mrs. McCarty, Mr. Taglianetti
- Absent: Ms. McLaughlin
- Staff: Dr. Collins, Interim Superintendent of Schools; Mr. Powers, Assistant Superintendent
- Guests: Ms. Diane Holmberg, Chemistry Teacher & Chemical Hygiene Officer; Mr. and Mrs. Schonenberg, Parents

Mr. Blevins established a quorum and called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Motion: That the Policy Committee approves the minutes from the last meeting, held on December 16, 2010.  
McCarty, Taglianetti: Unanimous

Mr. Powers introduced Ms. Holmberg, the district's Chemical Hygiene Officer (CHO), who has been instrumental in creating this policy and regulations. Ms. Holmberg led discussion on the chemical hygiene policy and regulations. Ms. Holmberg talked about her reservations with issuing a list of approved chemicals for the district. She feels a list would be used more as a menu of choices, as opposed to limitations, that would possibly impede her safety measures. Ms. Holmberg also discussed some of the information teachers receive each year during a chemical safety training she conducts. The committee agreed that Ms. Holmberg has taken positive steps to limit chemical exposure and increase chemical hygiene and safety and instituting the chemical hygiene policy and regulations would only further that work. The draft policy and regulations will be brought for a first reading at the next Board of Education meeting on February 17, 2011.

Mr. Powers began discussion on the sexual harassment policy and regulations. While the district has a sexual harassment policy, there are no regulations currently in place. Last year, it came to the district's attention that this particular policy needed some enhancements. The administration received input from Mr. and Mrs. Schonenberg, as well as Lieutenant David Burton of the Waterford Police Department. Mr. Powers also distributed this draft policy and regulations to administrators to obtain their feedback. Mrs. Schonenberg explained how she pushed for the addition of agencies families can go to for assistance when the need arises. Lt. Burton assisted with providing this information and the agencies are listed in the draft regulations. Mrs. Schonenberg feels that when an incident occurs, the hardest part for families is knowing whom they can turn to and how to move on from an incident. Mr. Egan said he thought a lot of incidents probably do not get reported by students who witness it due to a social stigma. Mrs. McCarty agreed that the district would almost need to inspire a cultural change in students. Mr. Taglianetti inquired as to what the schools do to encourage students to report incidents. Mr. Powers said that more training needs to be done for faculty so that students feel like they can go and report these incidents. Mr. Blevins commented that it is also important to educate the students. Mr. Powers explained sexual harassment and sex discrimination is brought up in health class at all levels,

with an additional focus at the middle school in which the principal meets with each team. Once this revision is approved, more training would occur with faculty and students. The committee agreed the draft sexual harassment policy and regulations will be brought for a first reading at the Board of Education meeting on February 17, 2011.

The next Policy Committee meeting will be on Thursday, February 17, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. in the Louise T. Appleby Room.

Motion: That the Policy Committee adjourn its meeting at 6:55 p.m.  
McCarty, Taglianetti: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,  
Mrs. Kathleen McCarty  
Recording Secretary