

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# Policy Committee Meeting

March 11, 2011

Susan Iwanicki, Ed.D

Assistant Superintendent

## Agenda

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### Introduction & Approval of Last Minutes

December 7, 2020

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### Policy 9140

Teacher Representation on the Board of Education

3

### Policy 6172.6

Virtual Courses of Study

## Our TPS Policy Committee Members 2020-2021

**Tim Gallo**  
**Policy Committee Chair**  
Vice Chairman of TPS Board  
of Education

**Marie Petitti**  
TPS Board of Education  
Member

**Alison Squicciarro**  
TPS Board of Education  
Member

**Cassandra Perrone**  
Trumbull Parent Rep

**Katie Lynn**  
Trumbull Parent Rep

**Efralim Diaz**  
Trumbull Parent Rep

**Paul Coppola**  
TAA Rep

**Kiera "Kiki" Grant**  
THS Student Rep

**Finn Hall**  
THS Student Rep

**John Mastianni**  
TEA Rep

**Roy Fuchs**  
Trumbull Community Rep

**Amanda Harmon**  
Trumbull Community Rep

**Sue Iwanicki**  
TPS Assistant Superintendent

# Minutes Approval

12-9-2020



# Before we continue...

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- ❖ Our meeting will end at 6:30 tonight.
- ❖ If we need more time, we will have an additional meeting.

## 1. Policy 9140

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Teacher Representation on the  
Board of Education

# Current Status of Policy 9140

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- ❖ Board of Education Members have requested a review of the policy in relationship to best practice for school districts.
- ❖ TEA Leadership has expressed a desire to keep the position.

## Policy 9140

### Teacher Representative on the Board of Education

#### **Policy Statement**

It shall be the policy of the Trumbull Board of Education to encourage participation of a teacher representative on the Board of Education. The purpose of this participation is two fold: to provide teachers with an opportunity to express their attitudes, opinions and ideas concerning the operation of the schools and to provide the Board of Education with the opportunity to listen to teacher opinion on matters which affect teachers.

# **Policy 9140 Procedures**

1. One (1) teacher representative shall be elected by teachers in the Trumbull School District for a one (1) year term.
2. The process for electing the teacher shall be determined by the Trumbull Education Association as approved by the Superintendent.
3. The period of service following appointment by the Board in June, shall be from July 1 to June 30 of the ensuing school year. A representative may be selected to succeed himself/herself.
4. Following appointment, the teacher representative shall attend an orientation session given by the Superintendent and two (2) Board members. This session shall be held if possible prior to the representative's first Board meeting.

# **Policy 9140 Procedures**

5. The representative is expected to attend all regularly scheduled meetings of the Board and can be appointed to committees of the Board on approval of the Board.
6. The representative shall not attend executive sessions; however, the representative may be invited to attend at the Board's desire.
7. The role of the representative is advisory to and not as a voting member of the Board.
8. The representatives shall stand for all teachers insofar as it is reasonably possible and shall not use his/her position as a forum to promote individual or non-representative opinions or projects.
9. The representative shall obtain input from, and report back to, the Trumbull Educational Association's Representative Council as a non-voting member and any other appropriate teacher organizations.



CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF BOARDS OF EDUCATION

- ❖ Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE)
- ❖ Represents nearly every school district across the state of Connecticut
- ❖ “Supporting boards to establish and maintain policy, a board's foremost responsibility, is a primary mission of CABE's Policy Services.”
- ❖ CABE Consultant, Vincent Mustaro, Senior Staff Member

What is best practice for Boards?

**Across our state, how do Board policies effectively include a Teacher Representative Position on the Board of Education?**

# Teacher on the Board in CT?

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- ❖ Currently CABE could find **no** Teacher Representatives on any Boards of Education in the state of Connecticut.
- ❖ Furthermore, nationally, there was only 1 instance of a Board having a Teacher Representative on the committee.

**What feedback does CABE have when reviewing the policy?**

# 1) Interference with Grievances

- ❖ The policy as written runs the risk of being misunderstood as a grievance in front of the Board.
- ❖ It could violate policy as such.

# 2) The Policy Bypasses Communication

- ❖ Districts hire a Superintendent who communicates with the Board.
- ❖ Having a Teacher Rep on the Board, by-passes the communication and confuses the chain of communication.

### 3) Teacher's Contract Should be Followed

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- ❖ **SECTION 19 Consultation Procedure** It is the desire of the Board and the Association to achieve continuous rapport and understanding between the parties and it is felt that one **method of achieving this goal is to discuss periodically various subjects of mutual concern** not necessarily covered under this Agreement. Accordingly, the parties will attempt to hold **periodic informal meetings to discuss such subjects** when such discussion is requested by either party.

### 4) Inclusive Structures for Teacher Voice

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- ❖ Other vehicles for teacher voice should and ARE in place, such as:
  - Union representation that meets regularly with the Superintendent.
  - Committee Meetings where teachers are a part of the conversation and decision making at grade, school, and district levels
  - Town Halls and Leadership Teams
  - Public Comment at BOE Meetings

**Could the policy be edited to be further sculpt the expectations of the Teacher Rep so that it does not present the same challenges?**

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## **5) Editing -- Other Complications**

- ❖ Districts are welcome to edit policies.
- ❖ It is unlikely that editing will fix the grievance or chain of communication issues.
- ❖ It may also lead to Freedom of Speech violations.

## What recommendations does CAFE have when reviewing the policy?

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### **Rescind the Policy**

- ❖ Interferes with Grievances.
- ❖ Discourages communication in other structures such as town halls, etc.
- ❖ Teacher's contract should be followed.

Parallel Example-- Should parents call a principal about a concern in the classroom before contacting the teacher? There should be a chain in place-- other ways to communicate about concerns proactively.

## **Discussion of Policy 9140 by members of the Policy Committee.**

- **Please state your name, role, and limit your comments to 3 minutes at a time.**

## **Policy 6172.6**

Virtual Courses of Study

# Current Status of Policy 6172.6

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- ❖ The Virtual Course of Study Policy has language which may limit students from taking courses needed to graduate or advance to the next level.

## Policy 6192.6

### Virtual Courses of Study

**Policy Statement** - The Board of Education supports education through virtual courses of study as an alternative means of instruction for some students in **special circumstances**. A virtual school is defined as an educational organization that offers courses at various grade levels through Internet or Webbased methods. Such schools can offer courses to enhance, supplement, or enrich the existing curriculum and can also provide an effective alternative means of instruction. Virtual courses of study can be part of the District's educational program delivery system to increase accessibility and flexibility in the delivery of instruction.

## Current Need

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- ❖ More students may need to earn credits as a result of COVID.
- ❖ TPS does not offer a Summer School Program, and if offered, it will not be able to support the breadth of offerings needed for student credit recovery.
- ❖ Students at the middle school level may also benefit from use of the program.

## Language Concerns

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- ❖ A. Credit from a virtual course of study may be earned by a student enrolled at Trumbull High School only if: (a) **The course is not offered at Trumbull High School, and** no alternative course is available that is deemed appropriate by the student's House Principal and the THS Principal; or
- ❖ B. **The course will serve as an alternative or a supplement to extended homebound or hospitalized instruction;** or

# Concerns Continued

- ❖ Students in **grades K-8 shall not participate in virtual courses** of study as part of their instructional program. Exceptions may be permitted if: (a) The course will serve as an alternative or a supplement to extended homebound or hospitalized instruction;

## **Review of Proposed Changes to Policy 6192.6 by members of the Policy Committee.**

- **Please state your name, role, and limit your comments to 3 minutes at a time.**



**Thank you!**

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# Thank you

We appreciate your participation in our meeting this evening.

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