

Trumbull Public Schools
Trumbull, Connecticut
Trumbull Board of Education Policy Committee
Regular Meeting – September 17, 2015
Long Hill Administration Building

The Trumbull Board of Education convened in the Long Hill Administration Building for a Regular Meeting.

Members present:

Rosemary Seaman, Chair, BOE member
Susan LaFrance, BOE member
Dr. Jonathan Budd, Central Office Admin.
Patricia Frillici, TAA Rep.
Laura McNaughton, TEA Rep.
Kristine Kely Murano, Parent Rep.
Cindy Katske, Community Rep.
Mary Pierson, Community Rep.

Members absent:

Loretta Chory, BOE member
Jennifer Mottolese, Parent Rep.
Bryan Woodward, Parent Rep.

Rita Ciarmella, Admin. Assistant

Guest: Pauline Smith, PPS Director

Agenda Item I – Preliminary Business

- A. Introduction – The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m.
- B. Correspondence – There was no correspondence.
- C. Public Participation – There were no public comments.

Agenda Item II – Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting, August 19, 2015 – Mrs. LaFrance requested that a Consent Agenda not be used for this Committee. Committee members unanimously agreed that on future agendas Approval of Minutes can be placed under Reports / Action Items.

Agenda Item III – Reports / Action Items

- A. Board of Education Meeting Updates – Dr. Budd conveyed the Board met on September 1, 2015, and approved Second Readings of both Affirmative Action, Policy Code 4000.1, and Non-Discrimination in Employment, Policy Code 4111.1.
- B. Second Reading Discussion
 - 1. Special Education, Policy Code 6171 – Dr. Budd conveyed that the Board considered this policy for a First Reading at its September 1, 2015, meeting, and suggested revision along the lines of what is presented on page 1 of the proposed policy in this evening’s packet. Additional revisions were suggested to the references. The Committee unanimously agreed to bring the policy, with the revisions, to the Board for a second reading on October 6, 2015.
 - 2. Individualized Education Program / Special Education Policy, Policy Code 6159 – Dr. Budd and Mrs. Smith conveyed that the Board considered this policy for a First Reading

at its September 1, 2015, meeting, and suggested revision along the lines of what is presented on page 2 of the proposed policy in this evening's packet. Additional revisions were suggested to the references. The Committee unanimously agreed to bring the policy, with the revisions, to the Board for a second reading on October 6, 2015.

3. Pre-School Special Education, Policy Code 6171.2 – Dr. Budd and Mrs. Smith conveyed that the Board considered this policy for a First Reading at its September 1, 2015, meeting, and suggested no revisions. Additional revisions were suggested to the references. The Committee unanimously agreed to bring the policy, with the revisions, to the Board for a second reading on October 6, 2015.
4. Bullying and Teen Dating Violence Prevention and Intervention, Policy Code 5131.911 – Dr. Budd and Mrs. Smith conveyed that the Board considered this policy for a First Reading at its September 1, 2015, meeting, and discussed concerns with the policy. Additional revisions were suggested to the references. The Committee unanimously agreed to bring the policy, with the revisions, to the Board for a second reading on October 6, 2015, along with information from CABE and other districts related to this policy topic.
5. Budget Transfer, Policy Code 3160 – Dr. Budd conveyed that the Board considered this policy for a First Reading at its September 1, 2015, meeting, and discussed additional aspects of this policy that will be taken to the Finance Committee at its September 30, 2015, meeting.

IV. Policy Review/Discussion

- A. Civility and Decorum, Policy Code 1316.1 – Mrs. Seaman distributed information that Mrs. Mottolese had distributed to Committee members prior to the beginning of the meeting; the information is attached as the final page of these minutes. The Committee unanimously agreed to table discussion of the policy until the next Committee meeting.
- B. Attendance Grades K-8, Policy Code 5113.1 – Dr. Budd presented the proposed revisions in this evening's packet. Additional revisions were suggested to the references. The Committee unanimously agreed to bring the policy, with the revisions, to the Board for a first reading on October 6, 2015.
- F. Pay to Participate, Policy Code 5138 – The Committee unanimously agreed to take out of order Item IV.F. Dr. Budd presented the proposed revisions in this evening's packet. Additional revisions were suggested. The Committee unanimously agreed to bring the policy, with the revisions, to the Board for a first reading on October 6, 2015.

Adjournment

Mrs. Frillici moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:17 p.m.; it was seconded by Mrs. Seaman, and unanimously agreed to. The next meeting of the Policy Committee will take place on October 14, 2015, at 5:30 pm.

I find it interesting...I don't think it is a bad idea, however people interpret others speech and written words in different ways. I can see this policy being invoked unnecessarily.

some of this does seem to border on a violation of 1st amendment rights. Additionally, some of what was presented as unacceptable behavior can be very subjective.

Who then reviews/governs the "ban" on the person? Who judges them? Are they no longer allowed to attend meetings, events, etc...? What happens when a BOE member behaves that way? Are parents allowed to have that member removed? I can imagine the BOE... imposing the "civility rules" and not allowing people to speak. We already have a policy about what is acceptable on school grounds. Why do we need a separate one?

Personally speaking this would be chaos and cause so many more problems than preventing any disrespectful behavior. This could border on someone's first amendment rights depending on how its interpreted too. Not in favor of this at all, but I still have the right to disagree or do I?

Something about this rubs me the wrong way, specifically that it's a policy that attempts to codify how parents can speak to teachers, administrators, and other staff/BOE members. I can see parents getting a bit uppity, a bit How Dare You Tell Me, The Taxpayer, How To Speak To The People Whose Salaries My Tax Dollars Pay?

I don't see anything that gives either side - parents or BOE representatives - any procedure to fall back on should they be treated in an uncivil manner. The policy instructs the wronged party to keep any texts or emails, but doesn't say why or how they may be used in the future.

This probably wasn't intentional, but it wouldn't surprise me to see this policy be used against parents who "rock the boat" as civility and disrespect can be in the eye of the beholder, and end up with BOE/ staff refuse to deal with certain parents.

I think this opens the door to a lot of people complaining because their feelings were hurt vs. actually being treated in a disrespectful manner.