

Policy/Communications MINUTES

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

Brookfield High School Media Center

6:00 PM

Hala Hourani called the Policy/Communications subcommittee meeting to order at 6:08 pm.

Present: Joy Greenstein, Hala Hourani, Stephanie Sikora, Superintendent Dr. John Barile and Lisa Gramling

APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

Hala Hourani moved, J. Greenstein seconded, and the subcommittee voted unanimously to approve the minutes from the February 21, 2024 Policy/Communications subcommittee meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

NEW BUSINESS

The committee began discussion on Policy #5145.5, Sexual Harassment, and considered adding language to the policy that defines “obscenity.” The committee then reviewed the CAGE policy and regulation on Sexual Harassment and will continue discussion on the inclusion of portions of that language to the Brookfield documents.

The committee plans to submit Policy #5145.5 at the May BOE meeting for a first reading.

POLICY

OLD BUSINESS - POLICY #6563, School Library Media

The committee continued discussion of policy #6563, School Library Media, focusing specifically on the criteria for selection of material with sexual content. Suggestions were made to edit related language in Newtown’s policy to include additional controls prior to adopting such material. This discussion will continue following receipt of information from librarians regarding the number of books added to the collection per year.

Dr. Barile informed the committee of HB 5417 with a proposed effective date of July 1, 2024, which speaks to BOE responsibilities when removing or restricting access to books in school libraries. If passed, this Bill may impact the language in our School Library Media policy.

COMMUNICATIONS

Dr. Barile provided the following information:

- The budget flyer will be updated to reflect the new changes and will be sent out after the April break.
- The State of the District will be communicated prior to the April break.
- The Parent Square platform is moving toward a roll out.

ADJOURNMENT

Without objections, Mrs. Hourani adjourned the meeting at 6:50 pm.