

RHINEBECK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT/POLICY COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting of April 9, 2015

Present: Diane Lyons, Mark Fleischhauer, Lisa Rosenthal, Joe Phelan

Policy No. 4730: Homework – Joe is still discussing the revision of this policy with the administrators. Among the issues being discussed are the following: (i) acknowledgment in the policy of the need for teachers to provide focused, quality feedback to students; and (ii) having the policy possibly address non-cognitive factors, independent learning, and practice of skills outside of the classroom. Joe will continue this discussion and report back to the Committee at its next meeting.

Potential Policy Regarding Religious Exemptions from Vaccination Requirements: Joe has not yet been able to speak with the district's attorneys, but he will make efforts to do so and report back to the Committee at its next meeting. The Committee briefly discussed legislative efforts in California and elsewhere to eliminate or narrow the scope of religious and moral objections, none of which are currently under serious discussion in New York.

Continued Review of Policies:

(1) Policy No. 5100, "Comprehensive Student Attendance": It appears that CLS does still award certificates for perfect attendance, but no longer publishes the names of the recipients in the weekly newsletter. At BMS, the administrators no longer enforce detentions for tardiness because the amount of work involved in doing so would require a full-time staffer to perform it, which is not possible at current staffing levels. Teachers at BMS and RHS report attendance per period, while CLS teachers report in the morning only. If a child at BMS or RHS is absent from class but the absence has not been reported in advance by a parent or guardian, there is a process for determining whether the student is on campus and, if he/she is not, to notify the parent or guardian. The Committee requested that Joe remove references to "open campus" because RHS does not have an open campus. The Committee also asked Joe to reword the reference to teachers being given a copy of this policy when they are hired so that the reference states that teachers are given access to the policy electronically.

(2) Policy No. 5120, "School Census": The Committee discussed the fact that this seems to be an outmoded carryover from years ago that the district does not perform. The Committee asked Joe to communicate with the district's lawyers regarding whether this policy is still required and, if it is, what the district should do to comply.

(3) Policy No. 5150, "Screening of New School Entrants": No action needed.

(4) Policy No. 5151, "Homeless Children and Youth": No action needed.

(5) Policy No. 5152, "Residency and Admission of Non-Resident Students": No action needed.

(6) Policy No. 5152.1, "Admission of Foreign Students": No action needed.

Proposed Agenda for Next Regular Meeting (May 14, 2015):

Continued review of district policies, starting from Policy No. 5154, “Assignment of Students to Classes.” Follow up on previously discussed items.

Dated: April 10, 2015

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Rosenthal