

RHINEBECK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE
Meeting of March 10, 2016

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

Topics Discussed: Potential new policies, status of previously-discussed items.

1. **Potential New Policies:** The Committee discussed the following matters in terms of whether or not new policies should be adopted by the Board:

(a) **Policy Regarding Transgender Students:** There is presently no policy specifically relating to such students. Other school districts in New York have dealt with a number of issues that arise with respect to transgender students, including bathroom and locker-room use, among others. The Committee was informed that state law requires that students be permitted to self-identify with respect to their gender. With respect to participation in athletic teams, the NYSPHAA rules are unclear but, on the few occasions when issues with respect to transgender students have arisen in the district, they were resolved to the satisfaction of the involved student. After a robust discussion, the Committee decided that the full Board should be consulted as to whether the Board perceives a need for a policy before taking further action.

(b) **Policy Regarding Security Measures With Respect to Changing Student Grades:** Joe informed the Committee that the Audit Committee is considering this issue. If that committee determines that a policy should be promulgated, this Committee will take appropriate action.

(c) **Policy Regarding Use of Treatments for Heroin Overdoses by District Personnel:** The Committee discussed the possible training of staff in the use of Narcan or similar treatments in the event that persons on school property suffer a heroin overdose during times that the schools are occupied, either during the school day or during before- or after-school events. The information presented to the Committee concerning the availability of these treatments by emergency or police personnel was unclear. Although Mark reported that other districts in the region are engaging in training of personnel to use these treatments, there was no consensus among the Committee members as to whether there should be a Board policy on the subject. After a robust discussion, the Committee decided that the full Board should be consulted as to whether the Board perceives a need for such a policy before taking further action.

(d) **Policy Regarding Acknowledgement of Donations:** The Committee considered whether donors to the district should be acknowledged for their donations through the posting of some sort of plaque or sign. The Committee reviewed Policy Nos. 1511, Advertising in the Schools, and 7501, Memorials, but neither seemed to bear on the question. While no objections to the concept were raised, there was no consensus among the Committee members regarding the specific contours of such a policy. After a robust discussion, the Committee decided that the full Board should be consulted as to whether the Board is willing to entertain the concept, before taking further action.

2. **Previously-Discussed Items:** The Committee requested updates on the following items that were previously discussed:

(a) **Policy Regarding District Credit Card (Proposed Policy No. 8334):** Joe reported that the Finance Committee is considering this matter. When that Committee has completed its work on the subject, it will be referred to this Committee for further action consistent with the Finance Committee's recommendations.

(b) **Revisions to Homework Policy (Policy No. 4730):** Joe reported that he has had additional discussions with the administrators and will marshal their comments. A revised draft will be presented to the Committee at its next meeting.

(c) **Potential Policy Regarding Exemptions to Immunization Requirements:** The Committee discussed the fact that there has been national discussion of this issue, but the Committee was unclear whether NY State law had changed regarding the subject. Joe will find out what the current state of the law is and report back to the Committee at its next meeting.

Next Scheduled Meeting: April 14, 2016 at noon, District Office.

Date: March 10, 2016

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Rosenthal