**Rhinebeck Central School District Board of Education**

**Policy Committee Meeting Minutes**

**June 16, 2011**

Present: Karen Hatter, Dean Vallas, Elissa Cascio, Joseph Phelan

1. **Policy for establishing new sport / extra curricular programs**

* As a follow up to discussion at June 14th Board Meeting, we discussed the possibility of engaging in future consideration of outside groups proposing the addition of new sports teams / clubs with funding provided by said outside groups.
* Noted that current Policy #5200 (Co-Curricular and Extra Curricular Activities) states that individual schools will have guidelines to create, organize, administer, and dissolve student activity programs. Joe informs us that these guidelines are available from the HS Principal. Perhaps a brief handbook can be created with consolidated information and guidance that can be provided to any such groups.
* Committee discussed a need for the Board to answer a basic philosophical question: Does the Board want to promote to our community the fact that the district accepts tax deductible donations for specific programs, and/or for items / programs on a district-developed “wish list”?
* Parallel discussion regarding a possible Board goal stating our commitment to exploring appropriate opportunities for cost savings, shared services, etc., and how this option for funding future programs may become more commonly proposed as we move forward.

1. **Computer and Technology Staff Acceptable Use Policy (AUP)**

* Document referred to in Board policy outlining acceptable use of district computers and technology by staff.
* Reviewed document developed by faculty , staff members and administrators again.
* AUP is ready to be implemented ASAP.

1. **Concussions Policy**

* We await State timeline and regulations.
* Have framework for a Concussions Policy based on our practice during the past few years when students have suffered such injuries.
* We will ask our Athletic Director for input about the possibility of the Board adopting a policy in support of our current practice, to see if the AD believes it would be more helpful in keeping everyone consistently focused on the health and safety of our student athletes with a Board Policy for the start of the 2011-12 school year.
* Appropriate changes would be made to Policy once the State regs are issued, in order to insure compliance.

1. **Bullying and Harassment Policy – Regulations**

* Board adopted B&H Policy in April, 2009
* Annual staff training on Sexual Harassment has had its scope broadened to include training on Bully and Harassment
* Formal regulations have not been written due to the signing of the Dignity for All Students Act by Governor Paterson in Fall 2010, which takes effect July 2012.
* Committee discussed the fact that regs that will be issued by the state must be complied with, but that does not preclude us from developing administrative regulations in support of implementing all aspects of our local B&H Policy, and then amending our policy and/or regulations once guidelines are issued by the state.

Respectfully submitted – E. Cascio