

Columbia Board of Education Policy Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 20, 2014

Members Present:

Board: Mr. Jonathan Sessions (Chair)
Ms. Jan Mees
Mr. James Whitt

CPS: Dr. Peter Stiepleman
Mrs. Melinda Adams

Ex-Officio: Ms. Susan McClintic/CMNEA

Guests: Ms. Linda Quinley
Mr. John White (Security)

The meeting was called to order by Jonathan Sessions at 4:31 p.m.

Opening

Mr. Sessions discussed community members and stated he'd not received responses from potential members at this time, but involving two community members would meet the committee's current required quota.

Mr. Sessions continued with introductions and reviewed the responsibilities of the Policy Committee (PC) of making recommendations to the Board of Education for policy revisions and/or adoptions. He asked Dr. Stiepleman for comment. Dr. Stiepleman concurred with Mr. Sessions and asked everyone to be mindful of our commitment to uphold the District's core values, to remain open and offer mutual respect to committee members.

Mr. Sessions relayed our common goal of reviewing many policies this year and reminded the committee consent agenda items would be broken out separately and presented directly to the Board for review.

Mr. Sessions motion to approve Policy Committee meeting minutes from June 16, 2014. It was moved by Ms. Mees that the minutes should be approved and Mr. Whitt seconded. Vote was taken and minutes were approved.

Ms. McClintic brought discussion of a concern involving the committee's review of policies GCBA and GCBA-R. She requested how to get those items on the agenda. Mr. Sessions responded that the agenda sent out via email was only a basic starting point. Ms. McClintic asked Mr. Sessions if he had the policies in question and he replied that he did not.

Discussion occurred around the meeting minutes and ensuring they are available online.

Policy ECA Building and Grounds Security

Mr. Sessions invited Mr. John White, CPS Director of Security, to join the table. Mr. Sessions directed the committee to the email and documents he sent out earlier regarding current standing, certifications, and requirement.

Mr. White explained the federal and state statutes including the definition of what the certification of a School Resource Officer (SRO) means and what qualifications are required. Mr. White also stated that what our SRO's do every year is similar to the actions of law enforcement officers.

Discussion occurred around whether our District's SRO's should carry weapons or not, what changes are being proposed, how SRO's are trained, and the policy language clarification

Mr. Sessions asked Mrs. Adams whether the policy would impact contracting services for security. Mrs. Adams commented that current policy neither supports nor hinders a decision on whether a district would contract these services or not, but asked Mrs. Quinley for further comment. Mrs. Quinley stated she agreed with Mrs. Adams from the IRS perspective.

Discussion about the district's responsibility for professional liability insurance occurred. Further clarification was requested.

Dr. Stiepleman recommended the policy be recommended to the Board for consideration.

Mr. White commented that between K-12 and college level there were over 70 shootings reported since Sandy Hook. He encouraged the committee to consider the possibility our district could face a similar scenario and explained he has a license to carry a weapon for any location except for the school district he is contracted to protect.

Mr. Sessions motioned to present ECA Building and Grounds Security to the board. Ms. Mees moved that items should be presented. Mr. Whitt seconded.

Action: Vote was in favor to present policy ECA Building and Grounds Security to the Board as Tier 2 – 1st read.

Policy GBM Staff Grievances

Mr. Sessions indicated that GBM Staff Grievances, which was previously discussed, had enough MSBA recommended changes that it is best for it to come back to this committee before going before the Board.

Mrs. Adams explained both the revisions the committee proposed and policy MSBA created had similar information with a few exceptions. She pointed out one item of importance which came from the committee's last review was the extension of timelines, and stated a key element in the policy is that there is a timeline involved which is reasonable for both the employees as well as the supervisors. She also stated ensuring grievances go to the "lowest level possible" as a first step is appropriate. However, there was some language missing in the previously revised version that is fairly standard with grievance policies.

Committee discussion continued including ensuring employee concerns are being considered, a desire to take into consideration MSBA's comments, inclusion of performance evaluation language, and a request to table the discussion until the public committee members who worked on this last year come in.

Mr. Sessions motioned to postpone discussion on this issue until we have the additional committee members assigned. Mr. Whitt seconded and decision was made to table this until next month.

Action: Mrs. Adams will review and draft a document that has the elements of last year's committee work and MSBAs model policy.

Future items

Mr. Sessions shared policies "JO-Student Records", "JG-R Student Discipline", and "JHCD Administration of Medication to Students" on the agenda for next month.

Action: The committee's agenda will be provided no later than the Tues following the Board meeting and additional information will be provided to our committee members within the week.

Ms. Mees mentioned BCE and the committee being another month behind on that.

Ms. McClintic also shared concerns there were still items in the policy involving indoor air quality and school supply committee that needed resolution. Mr. Sessions asked Ms. McClintic if she was recommending a policy change. She replied "No". She was needing policy interpretation. Mr. Sessions commented that this is the difference between a legislative branch and our executive branch. He referred her to Dr. Stiepleman.

Conclusion

There was no further business. It was moved by Ms. Mees that the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Whitt seconded and meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.