

Policy Committee Meeting
Wednesday, January 17, 2018

PMSA – Room 532

4:30 PM

Present

Ms. Theresa Kelly
Mr. Ned Wager
Ms. Arbdella Patterson
Mr. Rodney Alexander
Dr. Kim Echols
Dr. Bessie Karvelas
Dr. Patrick Hardy
Mr. Dan Johnson
Mrs. Tiffany Jenkins
Ms. Dena Donald

Meeting called to order @4:30 p.m.

- N. Wagner thanked everyone for coming.

Reviewed policies that will be presented for Second Reading

- D. Johnson – said Dr. Howard may have some adjustments regarding policy 6:280; he thinks the changes have been made through K. O’Shea. T. Jenkins confirmed K. O’Shea received polices (6:280 & 6:300) that were updated by Dr. Howard.
- No further discussion took place regarding the polices that will be presented for second reading.

Discussion of policies presented for First Reading

- N. Wagner – mentioned the committee will only discuss policies 2:125 and 7:70. They will not be presented for first reading.

2:125 – Board Member Compensation, Expenses, and Resolution

- N. Wagner – said Dr. Rodriguez asked for this policy to be added to the agenda. Dr. Rodriguez also mentioned that any reimbursements to the board should be transparent and voted upon.
- N. Wagner – reiterated that this policy is for discussion only.
- N. Wagner – highlighted Section 2: Part A: Number 4 of the policy and would like clarification. Dr. Rodriguez is recommending that any reimbursement to a board member needs to be voted on. Dr. Rodriguez would also like to define how Board Members are chosen to attend various workshops or trainings.
- R. Alexander – said none of the outings the board has been going have been professional development.

- N. Wagner – named a couple of outings or events and how to classify the them.
- T. Kelly – asked was Dr. Rodriguez talking about meals?
- T. Kelly – mentioned that she'd like to see a set amount regarding how to spend a meal per diem. She doesn't think a Board Member must purchase 3 meals a day if he or she doesn't want to.
- N. Wagner – summarized T. Kelly's statement asking, Is it possible for Board Members to combine their meal allowances into a lump sum that they can use as they see fit rather than having to spend a set amount per meal?
- Dr. Hardy – thinks the amount of the per diem given is determined by city. This reference is from T. Drafall. Dr. Hardy recommended the committee follow up with T. Drafall about the law.
- Dr. Hardy – said the Superintendent wants a vote. He doesn't understand the difference between Section 2: Part A: Numbers 3 and 4 within the policy. He said Administration is supposed to attend conferences that are supported by the Board. Dr. Hardy proposed a question – Section 2: Part A: Numbers 3 and 4 necessary given what Section 2: Part A: Number 3 says? He thinks there are grey areas within both segments. He also mentions this creates a loop hole among everyone about what someone did and what somebody didn't do.
- D. Johnson – named a couple of conferences/trainings he'd gone to that might not have been related to the job.
- N. Wagner – asked are public events considered training? Are those Board professional development?
- D. Johnson – said we need a financial opinion about buying a table at an event or buying food at a hotel.
- N. Wagner – asked does purchasing a ticket in advance for a community event fall under Board Member reimbursement or Board Member expenses?
- The group discussed the difference between what is an appropriate event to be reimbursed for.
- D. Johnson – highlighted policy 8:10 and it talks about connecting to the community.
- The Policy Committee recommended adding an amendment to policy 8:10 and raised a question - Is policy 8:10 a better place for the discussion of purchasing tickets for community events?
- N. Wagner – asked is the actual discussion about purchasing a table for events or other community events?
- A question was proposed if the Board doesn't have much notice about a community event how does it deal with that?
- D. Johnson – said there are recurring or annual events that can be voted upon prior.
- Dr. Hardy – asked has the board voted digitally for conferences or anything?
- R. Alexander – reminded the group about the Open Meetings Act.
- N. Wagner – asked would it violate the Open Meetings Act to vote electronically about events?
- T. Kelly – We can leave it at the discretion of the superintendent as well.
- D. Johnson – read a Board policy that reminded the group that a quorum must be present. Just revisiting the statement about electronic voting.
- A. Patterson – asked is it about what the Board or what Dr. Rodriguez wants? What is it that we are trying to come up with a policy for?
- N. Wagner – responded and said he (Dr. Rodriguez) wants it to be at the discretion of the Board.
- A. Patterson – asked a clarifying question is it what Dr. Rodriguez wants or the Board? She asked when have people received event invites?

- Dr. Hardy – provided an example of receiving invites about events not in a timely fashion.
- A. Patterson – asked about Operation Uplift.
- T. Kelly – said in general, invites come in late, and the decision should be at the discretion of the superintendent.
- Dr. Hardy – recommended that the Board determine a specific amount of money regarding events it should attend a year. The Board should just vote on the money and not have to vote on the event because the money is already there.
- N. Wagner – recapped for A. Patterson why the committee is discussing the policy and explained it is capturing information for Gleason.
- N. Wagner – proposed a question - (1). If money has been decided can we vote on what event to go to electronically? The more organized we can be – list out what events we participate in regularly.

3:70 Succession of Authority – Approved for first reading

- Dr. Echols – recommended committee accept the press updates.

6:15 School Accountability – Approved for first reading

- Dr. Echols – recommended committee accept press updates.

6:170 Title I Programs – Approved for first reading

- Dr. Echols – recommended committee accept press updates.

6:210 Instructional Materials – Approved for first reading

- Press change – one change shall give parents the right to opt out of the student watching a rated R film.
- The group recommended – removing first sentence – starting “Teachers are encouraged..”

6:50 – School Wellness – Approved for first reading

- Dr. Echols – recommended the committee accept press change and adopt the press layout for the policy.

N. Wagner – tabled agenda items g-m until the next Policy Committee meeting. The committee will send agenda items b-f. The committee proceeded to discuss policy 7:70 Attendance and Truancy.

7:70 – Attendance and Truancy

- N. Wagner – said this policy was put on the agenda to review press updates. He thought the committee might want to discuss it in general.
- A. Patterson – thinks a letter just can’t be sent to a student. A child deserves due process. She met with students and heard their stories and believes the district needs to exhaust all avenues before they are put out of school. She mentioned a student felt intimidated when speaking to one of our counselors. She summarized the services the district offers to assist students in need and reviewed the truancy procedure with the committee, and mentioned why students don’t come to school because of extenuating circumstances, and recommended the district find out what is going on with the students.
- N. Wager – highlighted that we are in the process of hiring an attendance liaison.

- Dr. Karvelas – mentioned a truancy procedure found at another district.
- A. Patterson – reviewed the towns procedure for students not going to school within the community.
- T. Kelly – thinks we need to find a better way to locate the students and find out what the situations are and see how the district can help.
- N. Wagner – recommended that when the students are on the verge of getting a letter about getting kicked out of school they should be presented to the Board for a vote.
- Dr. Hardy – said he will take whatever resources he can get from the Board to help with the truancy concerns. His concern is that it makes it look like the school hasn't done what it needs to do. He said he goes to the restaurants close to the school to fight to keep the kids in school. Dr. Hardy reiterated that he will take whatever resources are given to him from the district.
- A. Patterson – asked where the truancy officers were? She reflected on procedures done at public transportation stations to get students in school.
- Dr. Echols – said a candidate will be presented to the Board for approval in February. She also went over the job duties/functions.
- Dr. Hardy – informed the committee that East will have three interns to assist with the truancy issue.
- N. Wagner – mentioned that the district should keep track of the students before they are 17 - years old. This came up with the denial of enrollment. The committee is OK with having a denial of enrollment if the district does everything in its power to man truancy.
- Dr. Hardy – said there is a process to get the students back in school and had a certain number of students that returned to school. He said we must be very careful with stories from students and staff. He summarized the issues that students may have.
- A. Patterson – said she knows about certain things that happened in the district and schools need to be inclusive. The district needs to ensure schools communicate effectively and share information.
- N. Wagner – thinks denial of enrollment should be treated like expulsion – where the Board receives a list of names and it is voted upon.
- A. Patterson – asked what are they doing with the population that falls in the category of truant that aren't really truant?
- Dr. Hardy – answered A. Patterson's question with the process and explained the outside organizations and resources Proviso East uses to help those specific students.
- A. Patterson – asked about homebound students and discussed the process with the committee.

Dr. Echols – asked to clarify the time of the next meeting.

N. Wagner – clarified the next meeting will start at 4:00 PM.

N. Wagner – adjourned the meeting at 6:00 pm