



Policy Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools
September 24, 2024 – 5:30 p.m.
Meeting Location: Collaboration Conference Room
454 S. Harvey, Plymouth, MI 48170

Committee Attendees: Patti McCoin, Anupam Sidhu, Abdul Madyun, Aamina Ahmed and Chris Allan

Others Present: John Johnston, John Kava, Lisa Rasmussen, Melissa Dicken, Natalie Dicken and Jennifer Vos

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. Member McCoin welcomed the group.

2. Citizen's Comments:

Ms. Dicken, a P-CCS parent, expressed concern regarding High School placement. She would like to change her daughter's placement from Canton High School to Plymouth High School.

The family reached out to P-CCS Administration to change her assignment and were told they were unable to do so because it was against board policy.

Ms. Dicken referred to board policy 5120 ASSIGNMENT WITHIN DISTRICT, referring to the portion of the policy that states "Wherever possible and advisable in the interests of students, siblings shall be assigned to the same building". She said as a long time educator, she understands policy but there should be room for flexibility when it comes to children.

Ms. Dicken also spoke about a section of the policy that states "The Superintendent may assign a student to a school other than that designated by the attendance area when such exception is justified by circumstances and is in the best interest of the student".

Ms. Dicken stated she didn't see anything in the policy that says a student cannot change assignments.

Her hope is that the board would consider looking at this policy and support a decision to move her daughter from Canton High School to Plymouth High School.

Ms. Dicken asked how she should follow up on this and was advised that the Superintendent would follow up with her.

3. The Meeting Minutes from August 27, 2024 were approved.

Mr. Madyun informed the group that P-CCS does not currently have a NEOLA representative and that Neola is looking for a new representative for the district. The committee suggested that going forward it would be helpful to have a merge format that shows the changes compared to the updates, to help facilitate committee discussion around the policies. The committee also spoke about the possibility of utilizing another company other than NEOLA. There is concern around all of the policies that have been updated and whether our information can be moved into a new system? If P-CCS decides to go with another company this would not affect the district's relationship with our current legal counsel.

4. Old Business:

Policy 1240 EVALUATION OF SUPERINTENDENT (REVISED)

NEOLA made updates to this policy based on amendments to the revised school code.

Evaluations have changed for teachers and administrators. Some of the changes include how often evaluations are being conducted and the percentage of student growth.

Our current board policy has been amended several times, most recently in May 2023.

This was based on contract negotiations with the superintendent.

There are specifics in the current policy that track timelines such as creating a sub-committee to create goals and when to review the goals. In addition, a mid-year review and the completion of the evaluation by June 30th.

Legal counsel said that until we engage in contract negotiations with the superintendent, it would be prudent to wait on any policy amendments until amendments are added to the superintendent's contract.

Currently, there are no inconsistencies with the current contract and what the law requires. There is nothing that needs to be updated to this policy at this time.

To prevent questions surrounding the fact that MCL380.1249b (Michigan Legislature) is not mentioned in the policy, a sentence could be added that says the Board will ensure that it complies with Michigan Legislature. The policy will also reflect that P-CCS is following the law regarding student growth percentages.

Policy 8390 - ANIMALS ON DISTRICT PROPERTY

This policy was updated in 2023. NEOLA brought forth this policy due to grammatical errors. The current language in this policy does not need to change. Our current policy lays out who is responsible for the animal, who owns it and what type of animal it is.

The committee questioned who Echo belonged to because he serves many purposes? Echo was paid for with grant money and grant money is typically specific as to how it's spent. Legal counsel will look into this and bring the information back to the committee. The committee wants to be sure the contract is not being violated.

Policy 6320 - PURCHASING

This policy will be brought to a future meeting for discussion.

Policy 8800 - RELIGIOUS/PATRIOTIC CEREMONIES AND OBSERVATIONS

The committee discussed this policy and whether changes needed to be made? The committee questioned how to relate information regarding this policy to P-CCS staff so everyone is following the policy? The current policy is not violating any laws. The committee discussed how schools can handle religious holidays while respecting staff and students. It was determined that discussion around religious holidays is fine as long as staff are not pushing their beliefs onto others. There will be no changes to this policy at this time.

5. New Business:

Policy 9150 - SCHOOL VISITORS

The committee discussed this policy and spoke about the kiosks that were placed in the buildings. A question arose regarding what happens if someone does not have a state issued ID? It was determined that the buildings need the person's name and date of birth to enter a building. By providing this information, it gives the building administrator the information needed to check the national sex offender registry. The committee discussed when doors should be locked and when they should be left unlocked. More discussion will be held regarding this policy.

6. Future Scheduled Meeting Dates

Oct 22, 2024
Nov 26, 2024
Dec 10, 2024
Jan 28, 2025
Feb 25, 2025
Mar 11, 2025
Apr 22, 2025
May 27, 2025
June 24, 2025

The meeting was adjourned at 6:41 p.m.