

**New Milford Board of Education  
 Policy Sub-Committee Minutes  
 November 7, 2017  
 Lillis Administration Building, Room 2**

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 NEW MILFORD, CT

- Present:** Mr. J.T. Schemm, Chairperson  
 Mrs. Tammy McInerney  
 Mr. Bill Dahl, Alternate
- Absent:** Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach  
 Mr. Dave Littlefield
- Also Present:** Mr. Joshua Smith, Superintendent  
 Ms. Alisha DiCorpo, Assistant Superintendent

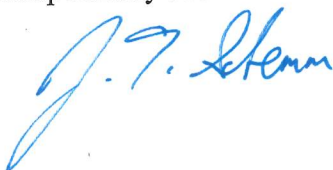
1.	<p><b>Call to Order</b></p> <p>The meeting of the New Milford Board of Education Policy Sub-Committee was called to order at 6:45 p.m. by Mr. Schemm. Mr. Dahl was seated in the absence of Mrs. Faulenbach.</p>	<p><b>Call to Order</b></p>
2.	<p><b>Public Comment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was none.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Public Comment</b></p>
3.	<p><b>Discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Schemm said the agenda was a combination of follow up from previous meetings and discussion topics suggested in collaboration with Mr. Smith.</li> <li>• Mrs. McInerney noted the policies were for discussion only and Mr. Schemm agreed saying if any changes were suggested, they would be brought back to committee for review.</li> </ul> <p><b>A. Policies:</b></p> <p><b>1. 1140 Distribution of Materials to and by Students (Use of Students) follow up</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Smith said a question had come up regarding the interpretation of this policy as it relates to in school events. Principals have been approving this type of flyer, e.g. Math Night, Movie Night, without sending it to the Superintendent's office as stated in the policy. While there has not been an issue with this</li> </ul>	<p><b>Discussion</b></p> <p><b>A. Policies:</b></p> <p><b>1. 1140 Distribution of Materials to and by Students (Use of Students) follow up</b></p>

	<p>practice yet, Mr. Smith is looking for guidance from the Board going forward.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mrs. McInerney said she had no problem with this practice of principal discretion and sees it as a way to keep the Superintendent's office from being needlessly inundated. She thinks larger events that involve more than one school or those of outside organizations should continue to have Superintendent approval required.</li><li>• Mr. Dahl said the only problem he has with the practice is that the Superintendent should know about all events, so he wants to make sure the principals inform Mr. Smith of all events they approve.</li><li>• Mr. Schemm said the policy itself has slightly different wording on page 1 and 2 regarding approvals, with page 2 adding a designee. He suggested designee be added to the wording on page 1 as well for consistency. He suggested designee be more specifically described as building principal.</li><li>• Mr. Smith suggested the language be clarified to specify self-contained building events.</li><li>• Consensus was to make that change and bring the policy back to committee next month for approval.</li></ul> <p><b>2. 1331 Smoking</b> <b>3. 5114 Removal/Suspension/Expulsion – page 5114(e)</b> <b>4. 5131.6 Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco</b> <b>5. 5131.61 Inhalant Abuse</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mr. Smith said he is bringing these policies for discussion tonight as they relate to tobacco and vaping. They are all inter-related and he is not suggesting any specific change, rather would like to focus on interpretation. Vaping technology has increased to such a level that it has become much more ubiquitous in level of use. The device itself can be undetectable and the cartridge can be filled with multiple substances. As such, he is recommending a reinterpretation of a vaping device as drug paraphernalia which would allow a different</li></ul>	<p><b>2. 1331 Smoking</b> <b>3. 5114 Removal / Suspension / Expulsion – page 5114(e)</b> <b>4. 5131.6 Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco</b> <b>5. 5131.61 Inhalant Abuse</b></p>
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	<p>path for progressive discipline. If the Board concurs, the district will then send education information to parents and inform them of possible consequences.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Dahl asked how the state defines the devices and Mr. Smith said they are considered tobacco devices. Mr. Dahl asked if more stringent discipline would be legal then. Mr. Smith said some other districts are already more stringent and schools are allowed to have zero tolerance regardless of the state definition.</li> <li>• Mr. Schemm said he has no problem with the reinterpretation. He views it as the policy definition catching up with the new technology. Defining it as drug paraphernalia takes the onus off of teachers and administrators having to determine what the device is being used for.</li> <li>• Mr. Dahl asked Mr. Smith if he thought the staff was knowledgeable about these devices. Mr. Smith said one high school staff meeting focused on this topic already this year but that the devices take many forms and are very difficult to track. The focus is on not allowing them in our schools. Mr. Smith said he had shared a Youth Agency flyer on the topic and he is in discussion with the Police Department to have the narcotics officer do a program for parents once notice is given of the reinterpretation.</li> <li>• Mrs. McInerney asked if there was already detentions and high use. Mr. Smith said there were. Mrs. McInerney said she was in favor of increased discipline consequences.</li> <li>• Mr. Smith said it was his intention to have this conversation at the Board level before sending out any information to parents.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>4.</b></p> <p><b>A.</b></p>	<p><b>Item of Information</b></p> <p><b>Possible Budget Drivers</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Expulsion legislation</b></li> <li><b>2. High school reform</b></li> </ol> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Smith said it is his intention to discuss possible budget drivers at all sub-committees</li> </ul>	<p><b>Item of Information</b></p> <p><b>A. Possible Budget Drivers</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Expulsion legislation</b></li> <li><b>2. High school reform</b></li> </ol>

	<p>through the end of the year into budget season. These are items that are being watched for their possible impact to the budget. They may be added or offset in other areas or end up being not addressed but there are frequent conversations on these topics in budget planning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The state is set to adopt some form of expulsion legislation and high school reform in December and while the exact outcome is not known, it is expected there will be impact to districts in some form. One impact is already felt in that new legislation not only requires an expulsion hearing to be held within ten calendar days of suspension but also that parents be notified five days prior to any hearing. These hearings require an investigation and multiple parties so scheduling can become problematic. Additional changes under consideration include increasing the number of required tutoring hours and the access to particular courses. All could have significant budget implications.</li> <li>• Mr. Smith said if the Board members has any particular questions he could get them information to have ahead of budget time.</li> </ul>	
<p>5.</p>	<p><b>Public Comment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was none.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Public Comment</b></p>
<p>6.</p>	<p><b>Adjourn</b></p> <p>Mrs. McInerney moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 p.m. seconded by Mr. Dahl and passed unanimously.</p>	<p><b>Adjourn</b></p> <p><b>Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 p.m.</b></p>

Respectfully submitted:



J.T. Schemm, Chairperson  
 Policy Sub-Committee