

NEW MILFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
New Milford Public Schools
50 East Street
New Milford, Connecticut 06776
(860) 355-8406

POLICY SUB-COMMITTEE
MEETING NOTICE

DATE: March 17, 2009
TIME: 6:30 P.M.
PLACE: Lillis Administration Building, Rm. 2

AGENDA

1. Call to Order

2. Public Comment

The Board welcomes Public Participation and asks that speakers please limit their comments to 3 minutes. Speakers may offer objective comments of school operations and programs that concern them. The Board will not permit any expression of personal complaints or defamatory comments about Board of Education personnel and students, nor against any person connected with the New Milford Public School System.

3. Discussion and Possible Action Items

A. Policies Recommended for Revision

1. Policy 1110 Administration and School Relations with the Board
2. Policy 1110.1 Communications with the Public
3. Policy 1112 News Media Relationships
4. Policy 1112.5 Media Access to Students
5. Policy 1120 Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings
6. Policy 1140 Distribution of Materials by Students (Use of Students)
7. Policy 1210 School-Community Associations
8. Policy 1312 Public Complaints
9. Policy 1313 Gifts to School Personnel
10. Policy 1323 Gifts to Students

B. Policies Recommended for Deletion

1. Policy 1100 School-Community Relations

4. Adjourn

Sub-Committee Members: Mrs. Amy Llerena, Chair
Mrs. Alexandra Thomas
Mr. David A. Lawson
Mr. Bill Wellman

Alternates: Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach
Mrs. Elizabeth Finney

**New Milford Board of Education
Policy Subcommittee Minutes
March 17, 2009
Lillis Administration Building, Rm. 2**

Present:	<p>Mrs. Amy Llerena, Chairperson* Dr. Lisa Diamond, Board Chairperson, ex-officio Mr. William Wellman* Mr. David Lawson* (arrived at 6:33 pm) Mrs. Alexandra Thomas* Mr. Thomas McSherry *Sub-Committee Members</p>
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Also Present:	<p>Dr. JeanAnn C. Paddyfote, Superintendent of Schools Mr. Thomas Mulvihill, Assistant Superintendent</p>
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1.	<p>Call to Order The meeting of the New Milford Board of Education Policy Subcommittee was called to order at 6:30 pm.</p>	Call to Order
2.	<p>Public Comment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was none. 	Public Comment
3. A.	<p>Discussion and Possible Action Items Policies Recommended for Revision</p> <p>1. Policy 1110 Administration and School Relations with the Board</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Paddyfote said these revisions were recommended by the Board Attorney who suggested that non-committee members should be treated like members of the public at sub-committee meetings in order to avoid a quorum of the Board. • Mr. Wellman asked in general if all these policies were really needed and didn't they place more of a burden on the Board. Mrs. Llerena responded that policies are needed to provide a foundation for the Board. Dr. Paddyfote said many of the policies arise from statutes. • Mr. Wellman said policies can often increase the cost of doing business through the original generation of the policy; the attorney's fees for writing; and then the administration's time in searching for the policies. • Mr. Lawson said the statutes are broad but these policies are written and confined to this Board. 	<p>Discussion and Possible Action - Policies Recommended for Revision Policy 1110 Administration and School Relations with the Board.</p>
2.	<p>Policy 1110.1 Communications with the Public</p> <p>Mrs. Llerena noted that this policy is in compliance with the No Child Left Behind act. Dr. Paddyfote said this policy needs a notation that is cross-referenced to policy 6172.4.</p>	<p>Policy 1110.1 Communications with the Public.</p>

3.	<p>Policy 1112 News Media Relationships</p> <p>Mrs. Llerena noted that items 1 and 2 have been removed because of a change in the laws and item 3 is new language.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Wellman asked why this was under news media relations and Dr. Diamond said she had a similar question because the wording includes “any other person.” • Dr. Paddyfote said item 3 is a result of statute 1-232, conduct at meetings. Mr. Wellman said he felt this did not belong under News Media Relationships. He suggested the statute probably applies to more than the media. • Mr. Lawson said this could refer to a person trying to block the media from covering the meeting. • Mrs. Thomas said the media has a right to be at a public meeting but the Chair can restrict access by the media. • Dr. Paddyfote said she would obtain clarification for the May meeting. 	<p>Policy 1112 News Media Relationships—Obtain Clarification for the May Meeting.</p>
4.	<p>Policy 1112.5 Media Access to Students</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Wellman said he did not think access to students should just be granted and wanted parent’s permission first. • Mrs. Llerena noted that parent’s permission is granted. Dr. Paddyfote said that at the beginning of each school year parents receive a packet of information with forms that must be signed; media access is one of the forms in the packet. 	<p>Policy 1112.5 Media Access to Students.</p>
5.	<p>Policy 1120 Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Wellman asked why the wording “to the extent provided by law” was included in this policy. Dr. Paddyfote said the law may be changed and this wording would prevent the policy from having to be changed. • Mr. Wellman said he thought the Board wanted the agendas to be posted. • Mrs. Thomas said this was more of a timing issue. • Dr. Paddyfote said the agenda must be posted with the Town Hall 24 hours in advance of a meeting. The agendas and minutes are placed on the website. However, if the website is down or the person placing the material on the website is unavailable, it could pose a problem, especially with respect to the timing requirements. Therefore, the Board’s attorney proposed language that would cover the Board should there be changes in the statute. 	<p>Policy 1120 Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings,</p>
6.	<p>Policy 1140 Distribution of Materials by Students (Use of Students)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Mulvihill asked if the Board got something from Faith Academy promoting its preschool, would this be distributed to which Dr. Paddyfote said no. 	<p>Policy 1140 Distribution of Materials by Students (Use of Students)</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Paddyfote reported that the district receives approximately 150 requests annually to distribute information. It consumes a lot of clerical time at the Central Office as well as at each of the schools to process the requests and prepare the packets for teachers. This is done as a community service, and if the requests continue to increase, Dr. Paddyfote may have to end the service. 	
7.	<p>Policy 1210 School-Community Associations</p> <p>Mrs. Llerena said the Board attorney suggested this policy was not necessary and it provides little legal value.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Paddyfote said she has never received a request under this particular policy. • Mrs. Thomas asked how a principal would know what is okay and what is not okay regarding community access to bring activities into the school. • Dr. Paddyfote answered that the building principal typically receives these requests. Most activities brought into the schools are funded by the PTO. The principal and PTO president review each request. Principals analyze these requests based on whether or not the activity complements the curriculum. 	Policy 1210 School-Community Associations
8.	<p>Policy 1312 Public Complaints</p> <p>Mrs. Llerena said the area of this policy being eliminated falls under policy 6161 Procedure for Filing Complaint.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Wellman said the 2nd paragraph seems to suggest that the Board cannot hold a hearing and he thought the words “permitted by law and policy” should be removed. • Dr. Diamond said the word “and” instead of “or” might be inserted and asked for further clarification of this policy. • Dr. Paddyfote will seek clarification of this policy and bring the information to the May meeting. 	Policy 1312 Public Complaints—Obtain Clarification for the May Meeting.
9.	Policy 1313 Gifts to School Personnel	Policy 1313 Gifts to School Personnel
10.	<p>Policy 1323 Gifts to Students</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Thomas asked if a sports team had a function at a restaurant versus school property if they no longer fall under Board jurisdiction. • Dr. Paddyfote said as long as they are acting as the team, they are under school jurisdiction and must follow school rules. 	Policy 1323 Gifts to Students
B. 1.	<p>Policies Recommended for Deletion</p> <p>Policy 1100 School-Community Relations</p> <p>Mrs. Llerena said this policy is not required by law and is therefore not needed.</p>	<p>Policies Recommended for Deletion</p> <p>Policy 1100 School-Community Relations</p>

	<p>Mrs. Thomas moved to bring revised policies:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Policy 1110 Administration and School Relations with the Board 2. Policy 1110.1 Communications with the Public 3. Policy 1112.5 Media Access to Students 4. Policy 1120 Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings 5. Policy 1140 Distribution of Materials by Students (Use of Students) 6. Policy 1313 Gifts to School Personnel 7. Policy 1323 Gifts to Students <p>to the full Board of Education for approval at the June meeting, seconded by Mr. Lawson and passed 3-0-1. Ayes: Thomas, Llerena, Lawson Abstain: Wellman</p>	<p>Motion made and approved to bring policies 1110, 1110.1, 1112.5, 1120, 1140, 1313, and 1323 to the full Board for approval at the June meeting.</p>
	<p>Mr. Wellman moved to recommend to the full Board of Education deletion of the following policies at the June Board meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Policy 1210 School-Community Associations 2. Policy 1100 School-Community Relations <p>seconded by Mrs. Thomas and passed unanimously.</p>	<p>Motion made and passed unanimously to recommend to the full Board of Education deletion of policies 1210 and 1100 at the June Board meeting.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Adjournment Mrs. Thomas moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 pm seconded by Mr. Lawson and passed unanimously.</p>	<p>Motion made and approved to adjourn the meeting.</p>

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Llerena, Chairman
 Policy Sub-Committee