

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: October 21, 2008
TIME: 7:00 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. Bullying – Policy 5131.911
- B. Removals/Suspensions/Expulsions – Policy 5114
- C. Student Health Services—Regular Health Assessments—Policy 5141
- D. Use of Physical Force and Seclusion Policy—Policy 5157
- E. Family & Medical Leave Act – Policy 4152.6/4252.6
- F. Athletic Coaches Evaluation and Termination – Policy 4115.1/4215.1
- G. Virtual/Online Courses/College/University Courses – Policy 6172.6

4. Adjourn

Items of Information

- Bullying Regulation – 5131.911
- Suspension and Expulsion/due Process Regulation – 5114
- Use of Physical Force and Seclusion Regulation and Notice—5157
- Family & Medical Leave Act – Regulation 4152.6/4252.6

Sub-Committee Members: Mrs. Elizabeth Finney, Chair
Dr. Lisa Diamond
Mr. David A. Lawson
Mr. Bill Wellman

Alternates: Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach
Mrs. Amy Llerena

**New Milford Board of Education
Policy Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes
October 21, 2008
Lillis Administration Building, Rm. 2**

Present:	<p>Mrs. Elizabeth Finney, Committee Chairperson Dr. Lisa Diamond*, Board Chairperson Mr. Bill Wellman* Mr. David Lawson* Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach, alternate *Committee Members</p>
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Also Present:	<p>Dr. JeanAnn C. Paddyfote, Superintendent of Schools Mr. Thomas Mulvihill, Assistant Superintendent Ms. Ellamae Baldelli, Director of Human Resources Mrs. Adele Johnson, Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Services Mrs. Lynn Holmes, Coordinator of Nursing</p>
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1.	The meeting of the New Milford Board of Education Policy Sub-Committee was called to order at 7:01pm.	Call to Order
2.	There was no public comment.	Public Comment
3.A.	<p>Discussion and Possible Action Bullying – Policy 5131.911</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Paddyfote said this policy was revised as a result of new legislation. She also noted that 5131.911c, paragraph 5a should include Principal, Assistant Principal, Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Services and Assistant Superintendent. • Mr. Wellman said the policy defines bullying between students, and teachers/students, then also points out volunteers, contractors, employees of the school district, but has no consequences associated. Dr. Paddyfote said employees are covered under the 4000 series and contractors are covered under the 3000 series. • Dr. Diamond asked why they were mentioned in this policy to which Dr. Paddyfote said that this is the policy that parents receive and they would not be made aware of other bullying sources if it was not mentioned in this particular policy section. 	<p>Discussion and Possible Action Bullying—Policy 5131.911</p>
3.B.	<p>Removals/Suspensions/Expulsions – Policy 5114</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Paddyfote said the changes to this policy were recommended by the Board attorney. The Commissioner of Education has issued guidelines and the revised policy should go up on the website upon approval by the Board of Education. Effective July 1st, the maximum suspension of 5 days will go to 10 days. Only students who pose a threat to others can be expelled or suspended out of school. 	<p>Removals/Suspensions/Expulsions—Policy 5114</p>

	<p>This item did impact the budget this year but was cut after the budget was defeated since this policy will go into effect next year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Wellman asked if in section 2b, the “teacher must immediately inform the building principal” meant that they had to stop everything to let someone know. Dr. Paddyfote said it depended on the situation. • Mr. Wellman asked if under 3c, prohibited conduct, if that meant off school property as well as on to which Dr. Paddyfote replied yes. • Mr. Lawson said that the Board had no police powers outside of school, but if something was brought to the administration’s or Board’s attention that was deemed through due process as dangerous, then things could happen under this policy. • Dr. Paddyfote said that some out of school misconduct, statutorily, had to come forward for a mandatory expellable hearing. • Mr. Wellman asked if a non-adverse decision shouldn’t be done in writing as well as a record of the meeting. Dr. Paddyfote said the record of the meeting was the written decision. 	
3.C.	<p>Student Health Services – Regular Health Assessments – Policy 5141</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Holmes said that public act 07-58 requires health assessments for grade 9 or 10 rather than grade 10 or 11. NMHS will do grades 9 and 10 in 2009, and in grade 9 thereafter. • Mrs. Johnson said this will help because a 9th grader is a 9th grader – there has been some confusion with students because credit status determines grade placement not years in attendance. 	<p>Student Health Services— Regular Health Assessments— Policy 5141</p>
3.D.	<p>Use of Physical Force and Seclusion Policy – Policy 5157</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Johnson said the state passed a new law in October and has drafted some regulations. The schools were directed to start immediately practicing what is in the law. New Milford does have a policy in place about this yet. • Mrs. Faulenbach asked if the attorney had looked at this policy since it is new to which Dr. Paddyfote responded yes. • Dr. Diamond asked how the schools seclude someone. Mrs. Johnson said it is the one area of the law the 	<p>Use of Physical Force and Seclusion—Policy 5157</p>

	<p>districts are struggling with – it is difficult to know when it’s not a time out and it becomes seclusion. She said training is provided on seclusion and she is collecting data as to how each school handles it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Paddyfote noted that this policy will come to the Board for first review in November. 	
3.E.	<p>Family & Medical Leave Act – Policy 4152.6/4252.6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Paddyfote said this is a statutory change. • Mr. Lawson said he concurred with the revisions. 	Family & Medical Leave Act—Policy 4152.6/4252.6
3.F.	<p>Athletic Coaches Evaluation and Termination – Policy 4115.1/4215.1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Baldelli noted the revisions to this policy were the terms of employment and the appeal process. • Mr. Lawson questioned the phrase “reasonable period of time” and asked if there was not a way to set a time limit, such as 10 days. • Ms. Baldelli said it really depended on the circumstances and facts of each case and did not want a timeline which might box in the Board. • Mr. Wellman said under the proposed addition that the superintendent was not obligated to present facts in support of a decision and so therefore the term “without basis” should be added at the end of the first sentence in paragraph e. 	Athletic Coaches Evaluation and Termination—Policy 4125.1/4215.1
3.G.	<p>Virtual/Online Courses/College/University Courses – Policy 6172.6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Finney noted this had been submitted to the committee and the Board and the question was about the number of credits. • Mr. Lawson said that is an issue the whole board should discuss. • Mr. Wellman asked if Mr. Mulvihill had an opportunity to determine the cost per course. • Mr. Mulvihill said there were a couple of ways to determine this however, if the common tuition of \$10,300 was divided by 5 ½ credits the cost per course would be about \$2,000. 	Virtual/Online Courses/College/University Courses—Policy 6172.6
	<p>Dr. Diamond moved to submit policies 5131, 5114, 5141, 4152, and 4115 for approval to the Board, Mr. Lawson seconded.</p> <p>Discussion: the Board attorney will be asked to assure the change to 5141 would be acceptable. Motion passed unanimously.</p>	Motion made, seconded and approved to submit policies 5131, 5114, 5141, 4152 and 4115 for Board approval.

	<p>Dr. Diamond moved to bring the new policy 5157 to the Board for first review, Mr. Lawson seconded and passed unanimously.</p> <p>Dr. Diamond moved to bring policy 6172 to the Board for second review, Mr. Lawson seconded and passed 3-0-1. Aye: Diamond, Finney, Lawson Abstention: Wellman</p>	<p>Motion made, seconded and approved to bring policy 5157 to the Board for first review.</p> <p>Motion made, seconded and approved to bring policy 6172 to the Board for second review.</p>
4.	<p>Adjournment</p> <p>Mr. Wellman moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 pm, seconded by Dr. Diamond and passed unanimously.</p>	<p>Motion to adjourn made and passed unanimously.</p>

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Finney, Chairman
Policy Sub-committee