

**New Milford Board of Education  
Policy Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes  
February 28, 2008  
Lillis Administration Building, Rm. 2**

Present:	Mrs. Elizabeth Finney, Chairman*
	Dr. Lisa Diamond*
	Mr. Thomas McSherry*
	Mr. William Wellman*
	Mr. David Lawson
	Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach
	*Committee Members
Also Present:	Dr. JeanAnn Paddyfote, Superintendent
	Mr. Thomas Mulvihill, Assistant Superintendent
	Mr. Greg Shugrue, Principal, New Milford High School

1.	The meeting of the New Milford Board of Education Policy Subcommittee was called to order at 7:00pm.	Call to Order
2.	There was no public comment	Public Comment
3.A.	<p>Discussion and Possible Action</p> <p>Letter from Attorney Catherine Thompson regarding Breathalyzer Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Paddyfote requested information from the Board attorney regarding a breathalyzer policy after Mr. Shugrue presented his concerns regarding student use of alcohol at school events and activities.</li> <li>• The draft policy is an add on to the Board’s current policy on drugs, alcohol and tobacco, which allows the use of a passive screening if there is reasonable suspicion of a student under the influence of drugs and alcohol.</li> <li>• Mr. Shugrue said that now in his third year as principal, he has had the opportunity to learn of the history of some students being killed or hurt in drunk driving accidents.</li> <li>• At the senior banquet last year, a student showed up clearly intoxicated and after some efforts to detain the student, the Brookfield Police were called – the banquet was held at the Candlewood Inn in Brookfield. The parent became angry with the administration because of the accusation.</li> </ul>	<p>Discussion and Possible Action</p> <p>Letter from Attorney Catherine Thompson regarding Breathalyzer Policy</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• During homecoming week, there are a variety of activities that happen at the school including a dance with 600 kids in attendance. The administration became aware of some drinking and so they gathered the students to hopefully deal with the issue. Again, some parents got angry with the administration. The intent of this add on is to allow the administration to run a breathalyzer on a student if there is reasonable suspicion that he/she has been drinking.</li><li>• Dr. Diamond said she was aware that in Ridgefield, the practice is to test every student.</li><li>• Dr. Paddyfote noted that Ridgefield conducts the testing under the behavioral expectations document signed by the student and the parent.</li><li>• Dr. Diamond said the issue was not just at dances and banquets, but also sporting events.</li><li>• Mr. Shugrue noted that the proposed policy addresses extracurricular events and was not specific to one type of event.</li><li>• Mr. McSherry said he liked the idea of the policy and did not want it to be too heavy handed. He questioned some of the wording in the policy which seemed somewhat vague.</li><li>• Mr. Shugrue said if the police are called, this would become part of the student's record. He also mentioned that the costs to get the breathalyzer including the pass system were about \$800.</li><li>• Mr. Wellman said he was concerned that the policy might not pass constitutional muster especially in light of the student who appears with their parents as the "guest" and the parents are intoxicated. He asked if the school had authority over the parents and if there was appropriate liability insurance to cover the board and the administrators.</li><li>• Dr. Paddyfote replied that there is liability insurance and generally it covers actions as long as they are not willfully negligent but she would ask the insurance carrier for specific information.</li><li>• Mr. Wellman asked if the student refuses to take the breathalyzer test and wants to leave, do the school personnel try to physically stop them. Mr. Shugrue said the security and the police make every effort to stop the student.</li></ul>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Lawson asked if the police were apprised of the school board's efforts. Mr. Shugrue said the school resource officer was made aware.</li> <li>• Mrs. Finney asked if the students were not allowed back in once they left an event to which Mr. Shugrue said they were not.</li> <li>• Mr. Mulvihill said the board needs to inform the public of this policy prior to adoption. He noted that a discussion about the proposed policy at the March meeting would be beneficial in helping the public understand why the policy is important and needed.</li> <li>• Dr. Paddyfote said she would ask the attorney for a definition of "guests" and check with the insurance company regarding coverage on this policy before bringing it to the March meeting.</li> </ul> <p>Mr. Lawson left the meeting at 8 pm.</p>	
3.C.	<p>Multi Year Policy Review Schedule</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Paddyfote said this committee should review the 0000 and 1000 series this year or next year; the 3000 series needed some review this year; the 7000 series which covers new construction can be moved to another year; the 5000 and 6000 series, students and instructional, are always reviewed. It was determined to review the 3000 series, business, next; the 0000 and 1000 series this year and the 2000, administration and 4000, personnel in the 2008-2009 year.</li> </ul>	Multi Year Policy Review Schedule
4.	<p>Adjournment</p> <p>Mr. McSherry moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 pm, seconded by Mr. Wellman and passed unanimously.</p>	Motion to adjourn made and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Finney, Chair  
 Policy Sub-Committee