

New Milford Board of Education
 Policy Sub-Committee
 April 10, 2007
 Sarah Noble Intermediate School – Media Center

Present: *Mrs. Dian Traisci-Marandola, Sub-Committee Chair
 *Dr. Lawrence Stillman
 *Mr. David Lawson
 *Mr. Bill McLachlan
 *Mr. Thomas McSherry

Also Present: Dr. JeanAnn Paddyfote, Superintendent
 Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach, Chair – BOE

* Committee Member

<p>1. The Policy Sub-Committee was called to Order at 6:15 p.m. Dr. Stillman and Mr. McSherry were seated as alternates.</p>	<p>Call to Order</p>
<p>2. There was no public participation.</p>	<p>Public Comment</p>
<p>3. Discussion and Possible Action Items</p>	
<p>3A. Policy Review Schedule</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Historically, the policy review process is completed in a timely fashion so the policies can be brought to the full Board at the June meeting and the revisions can be included in the student handbooks for next year. ▪ The Multi-Year Policy Update Plan is meant to be a guide to help the Committee when planning its agendas. ▪ The April Policy Sub-Committee meeting will discuss proposed changes to policies in the first half of the 5000 Series – Students. ▪ The second half of the 5000 Policy Series will be reviewed during the May Committee meeting. ▪ Current Connecticut Statutes are referenced on Policies that have proposed changes. 	<p>Policy Review Schedule</p>

<p>3B. Policy Series 5000: Students</p> <p>1. 5131.7 – Weapons and Dangerous Instruments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The word “any” to be added so the first paragraph second sentence will read, “.. in any school vehicle, on any school grounds,..”▪ There was much discussion about the legal vs illegal possession of a potentially dangerous weapon off school grounds. Even if a weapon is legally owned and carried, the concern was that misconduct might be construed and the policy enforced arbitrarily.▪ Our right to discipline an infraction of this policy off of school grounds was discussed and clarified. We have the right to impose discipline if the infraction is deemed to be “seriously disruptive of the educational process...” (paragraph 3) for example: off school grounds internet threatening behavior; possession of drugs off campus, but nearby a school or daycare center; improperly used pictures, etc.▪ The Committee Chair concluded the discussion by stating that the Committee must rely on the Board attorneys for guidance in use of language and application, with consideration of the facts on a case by case basis. <p>2. 5131.8 – Out of School Misconduct</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Changes to this policy are updates and are being suggested as a point-in-time change rather than changes due to negative experiences in its application.○ One Committee member urged the rest of the Committee to re-consider the fact that he believes our policies are treating firearms and weapons differently than drugs.○ It was pointed out that, by citing Connecticut statutes, our legal advisors are covering the Board from liability. We have zero tolerance for weapons of all types and our adopted policies have built-in safeguards against abuse of application.	<p>Policy Series 5000: Students Policy 5131.7 – Weapons and Dangerous Instruments</p> <p>5131.8 – Out of School Misconduct</p>
--	--

<p>3. 5131.21 – Conduct</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It was pointed out that this Policy started as a CABE Policy and has been reviewed by a variety of law firms over the course of time. The Policies are cross-referenced. ▪ It was suggested that the sentence under the subheading “Gangs” should be changed to read “Gangs are groups of youths who share common beliefs, attitudes, attire and exhibit unlawful and/or anti-social behavior.” ▪ The “Note:” as an explanation was considered useful as clarification. <p>4. 56131.61 – Inhalent Abuse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There was no discussion. <p>5. 5131.81 – Electronic Devices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Generally, when students are caught with cell phones, the device is confiscated and returned to the student at the end of the day. ○ The advancement of technology must dictate the changes necessary to policies regarding electronic devices. ○ As with the dress code policy, how a policy can be implemented and enforced fairly should be considered. Hard and fast rules can be problematic. Tracking can be very difficult. ○ It was the consensus of the Committee to revisit this Policy annually. <p>6. 5145.123 – Search and Seizure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Changes to this policy include the deletion of the regulation because this is an ever-evolving area of law, and the Board should review this policy annually. ▪ The finer points of “reasonable suspicion” and “probable cause” were discussed at length. ▪ Our school resource officers are policemen and, as such, follow the letter of the law in regards to their jurisdiction. ▪ We are not using metal detectors as yet in our schools, however, this policy will grant us the right to do so if the need to implement is established. 	<p>5131.21 – Conduct</p> <p>56131.61 – Inhalent Abuse</p> <p>5131.81 – Electronic Devices</p> <p>5145.123 – Search and Seizure</p>
--	--

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Committee suggested further review of this policy to clarify “reasonable suspicion” and “probable cause” as it relates to law enforcement officers. <p>7. 5156 – Research Involving Students There were no changes to this Policy.</p>	<p>5156 – Research Involving Students</p>
<p>Motion by Dr. Stillman: Move that the New Milford Board of Education Policy Sub-Committee bring Policy 5131.7, 5131.8, 5131.21, 5131.61, 5131.81, and 5156 to the Regular Board of Education meeting in June. Seconded by: Mr. Lawson</p> <p>Aye: Mrs. Marandola, Mr. Lawson, Mr. McLachlan, Mr. McSherry, Dr. Stillman Nay: Abstain: Motion: Passed Unanimously 5-0-0</p>	<p>Motion made and passed that the New Milford Board of Education Policy Sub-Committee bring Policy 5131.7, 5131.8, 5131.21, 5131.61, 5131.81, and 5156 to the Regular Board of Education meeting in June.</p>
<p>Motion by Mr. McSherry: Move that the New Milford Board of Education Policy Sub-Committee adjourn. Seconded by: Mr. McLachlan</p> <p>Aye: Mrs. Marandola, Mr. Lawson, Mr. McLachlan, Mr. McSherry, Dr. Stillman Nay: Abstain: Motion: Passed Unanimously 5-0-0</p>	<p>Motion made and passed that the New Milford Board of Education Policy Sub-Committee adjourn.</p>
<p>4. The Policy Sub-Committee meeting ended at 7:15 p.m.</p>	<p>Adjourn</p>

Respectfully Submitted,

Dian Traisci-Marandola,
 Policy Sub-Committee Chair