

**New Milford Board of Education  
 Policy Sub-Committee Minutes  
 October 6, 2020  
 New Milford High School Library Media Center**

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NEW MILFORD, CT

**Present:** Mrs. Angela C. Chastain, Chairperson  
 Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach  
 Mrs. Tammy McInerney  
 Mrs. Cynthia Nabozny

**Also Present:** Dr. Paul Smotas, Interim Superintendent of Schools  
 Mr. Brandon Rush, Director of Technology

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 Mrs. Chastain.</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 and Possible Action</b></p> <p><b>A. Policies Recommended for Revision and Approval at Initial Board Presentation in accordance with Board Bylaw 9311:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 1900/4900/5900/6900 Wearing Masks and Face Coverings During the COVID-19 Pandemic</li> <li>2. 6159 Special Education</li> </ol> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mrs. McInerney noted that the face coverings policy is legally mandated, but the policy up for review tonight, Operations of Schools During the Pandemic, which also contains face coverings language is not. She asked if the plan was to drop this face coverings policy if and when the other one is approved.</li> <li>• Mrs. Chastain said that would be the case if the Operations of Schools policy is approved, but that one is not mandatory. The face coverings policy is mandated, so that is why it is on for action tonight.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Discussion and Possible Action</b></p> <p><b>A. Policies Recommended for Revision and Approval at Initial Board Presentation in accordance with Board Bylaw 9311:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 1900/4900/5900/6900 Wearing Masks and Face Coverings During the COVID-19 Pandemic</li> <li>2. 6159 Special Education</li> </ol>

- Mrs. Faulenbach said the use of four policy series numbers is unusual. She asked if that is how it will go to the Board. The response was yes, that all four series numbers will be used since they make it clear that the policy applies to various subject areas.
- Mrs. Nabozny noted that the policy does not exclude gaiters or bandanas specifically, both of which the district discourages.
- Dr. Smotas said that is correct; the type of face covering is open to interpretation since guidelines change weekly it seems. He said the district does discourage gaiters and bandanas but we also must be reasonable in our expectations.
- Mrs. Chastain said she doesn't believe this has been an issue. Mask wearing in general seems to be going very well and there has been good compliance.
- Dr. Smotas agreed and added that no waiver requests have been received.
- Mrs. Faulenbach said she hopes the Board will look at the broader Operations of Schools policy in the future to see if anything else needs to be captured. Dr. Smotas noted it could also be looked at as a regulation to provide more flexibility.
  
- Regarding policy 6159, Mrs. McInerney said she was very happy to see the revision. She said it is her understanding that the change is still in dispute at the state level and asked what will happen to the policy if the change is overturned.
- Dr. Smotas said the Board could amend the policy at that time if they so choose.

Mrs. McInerney moved to bring policies 1900/4900/5900/6900 Wearing Masks and Face Coverings During the COVID-19 Pandemic and 6159 Special Education to the Board for approval, seconded by Mrs. Nabozny.

**Motion made and passed unanimously to bring policies 1900/4900/5900/6900 Wearing Masks and Face Coverings During the COVID-19 Pandemic and 6159 Special Education to the Board for**

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mrs. Faulenbach noted that the policies would be voted on separately at the full Board meeting.</li></ul> <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p><b>B. Policy for Review:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>1. 1900/4900/5900/6900 Operations of Schools During the COVID-19 Pandemic</b></li></ol> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mrs. Chastain said this very inclusive policy is not mandated and the Board does not have to adopt it. She noted that there were some typos in this version that will be corrected before it goes to the full Board.</li><li>• Mrs. Faulenbach noted that the travel appendix leaves out car and asked it if only considers large group travel. She suggested adding car.</li><li>• Mrs. Nabozny suggested changing the wording to “interstate travel within the last 14 days”.</li><li>• Mrs. Chastain questioned whether the policy should even move forward for discussion. Dr. Smotas said the district already encompasses the policy guidelines in district operations. He said the Board may be opening up a can of worms to try and track all this information.</li><li>• Mrs. Faulenbach said she is not comfortable with moving it forward as a policy right now, but is open to bringing it to the full Board for discussion.</li><li>• Mrs. McInerney asked if visitors to the buildings, such as for PPTs, are asked the appendix questions already. Mrs. Olson, via Zoom, said that all PPTs are done remotely now. Overall there is extremely limited traffic in the schools. Mrs. McInerney noted that the Board is planning to visit schools next week and suggested members should be asked these questions ahead of time.</li><li>• Dr. Smotas said in general he does not believe the district currently has the staffing to start this</li></ul>	<p><b>approval.</b></p> <p><b>B. Policy for Review:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>1. 1900/4900/5900/6900 Operations of Schools During the COVID-19 Pandemic</b></li></ol>
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	<p>type of screening process. He said he reminds people of protocols every Friday in his weekly note to parents/guardians and staff.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mrs. Chastain said the district relies on peoples' personal responsibility and common sense.</li> <li>• Mrs. McInerney suggested reminder signs should be posted when visitor restrictions are eased.</li> <li>• Mrs. Faulenbach said she thought that was a fair compromise.</li> </ul> <p>Mrs. McInerney moved to bring policy 1900/4900/5900/6900 Operations of Schools During the COVID-19 Pandemic to the Board for review and discussion, seconded by Mrs. Faulenbach.</p> <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p>	<p><b>Motion made and passed unanimously to bring policy 1900/4900/5900/6900 Operations of Schools During the COVID-19 Pandemic to the Board for review and discussion.</b></p>
<p><b>4.</b></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><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>Adjourn</b></p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:09 p.m. seconded by Mrs. Nabozny and passed unanimously.</p>	<p><b>Adjourn</b></p> <p><b>Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:09 p.m.</b></p>

Respectfully submitted:



Angela C. Chastain, Chairperson  
Policy Sub-Committee