

Islesboro Central School
School Board Policy Committee Meeting
May 24, 2016
4:30 – 5:30 p.m.
Superintendent's Conference Room
Minutes

Attendance: Lars Nelson, Bill Kelley, and Patrick Phillips. Absent: Shey Conover.

1. Continue review and discussion of a set of policies required by the School Nutrition specialists at Maine DOE, connected to our recent site inspection (will be brought to the meeting by Heather). Two policies remained from the review by Maine DOE: Harassment and Sexual Harassment of Students, and Wellness. The Committee reviewed both policies, and found nothing to change about the draft of the wellness policy brought to the Committee meeting by Patrick. He reported that his review of the Wellness policy with Heather revealed that the existing policy, which called for the creation of a Wellness Committee, had not been followed in that regard, nor did the school have the capacity to stand up and maintain such a committee. The Policy Committee agreed that the removal of that language from the policy was warranted. The second policy, on Harassment, did raise a few questions, primarily on the matter of whether the policy, which is based on a model provided by MSMA, should include trans-gender students among the protected categories of students. Patrick agreed that he would follow up with both MSMA and DOE to explore. (Note: There has been much press on this issue recently, including Maine's—or more accurately Gov. LePage's—decision to join a lawsuit with 10 other states to challenge USED's guidance on bathroom use. From that press coverage and analysis, it appears that we will need to proceed with caution on this matter, and I will continue to seek advice from MSMA and DOE in the coming weeks.)
2. Report from Patrick on the review of most recent list of required/recommended policies and discuss policies for review at next meetings and over the summer. Patrick brought a copy of the list of required policies that he had checked against our website inventory of policies. It looks like we have 10-12 policies to review in the coming months to get our policy manual up to date. Patrick agreed to work on assembling this group of policies over the summer and be prepared to begin work with the Policy Committee in September.
3. Discuss Policy Committee operations for the 2015-16 school year, and discuss any recommendations for next year. The Committee discussed our operations for the 2015-16 school year and found most aspects to have worked well. However, it was suggested by Bill Kelly that we consider meeting once every two months, rather than monthly, even it meant that we would need to meet for a longer period at these bi-monthly meetings. This seemed to be a idea worth pursuing.
4. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick R. Phillips, Superintendent of Schools