

Serving the Towns of Bethlehem and Woodbury

MINUTES

Policy Committee Meeting Tuesday, September 27; 7:00 p.m. Mitchell Elementary School Flanders Room

Committee Members Present:

Absent:

Tikva Rose, Chair Jim Crocker Chris Matta **David Butkus**

N/a

Also Present:

Brian Murphy, Superintendent of Schools Mark Sommaruga, Attorney for the Board

Patricia Paige, Board Clerk

I. Call to order

Ms. Rose called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. Policy #4100 Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect

Attorney Sommaruga provided a revised version of policy #4100 for the committee to review. A page-by-page examination was carried out with questions fielded by Attorney Sommarga.

Chris Matta moved that revised Policy #4100 be brought before the full board for approval; seconded by Jim Crocker; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

III. **Jewish Holidays**

Ms. Rose asked that the committee revisit the observance of Jewish Holidays within the school district citing the changes in community demographics as a leading motivation. She also addressed her concerns with students having homework assignments while observing a special holiday.

Conversations on the recognition of Jewish holidays initiated in November of 2021. The Board of Education, in conjunction with Acting Superintendent,

Wayne McAllister, surveyed staff and parents asking whether or not adjustments should be made to the 2022/2023 school calendar. The subsequent result was approximately 80% were in favor of keeping the calendar as originally presented. The calendar also provided for a Special Observance Schedule to allow faculty the ability to make appropriate accommodations for students who partake.

Ms. Rose also suggested removing Veterans Day as a district holiday observance. She stated that students would be better served in school participating in special commemoratives.

It was proposed that conversations regarding holiday observances be discussed with full board participation and during the time the district's school calendar is being considered.

IV. <u>Comprehensive Policy Review</u>

Superintendent Murphy recommended the policy auditing services included with a CABE membership. He outlined the process, timetable, and fee structure to the committee for consideration. Conversations will continue at the full Board level.

IV. Adjournment

A motion was made by David Butkus and seconded by Jim Crocker to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 p.m.; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Paige Board Clerk

Recorded and filed subject to Board of Education approval by: Patricia Paige, Board Clerk