

Minutes of the Bylaws/Policy/Ethics Committee of the Board of Education
Regional School District 14 www.ctreg.org
May 11, 2015

A meeting of the Bylaws/Policy/Ethics Committee of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held on Monday, May 11, 2015 in the Conference Room of the Central Office, 5 Minortown Road, Woodbury, Connecticut.

7:00 pm Start 7:55 pm End

In attendance: Chairman John Chapman, committee members Charles Cosgriff and Carol Ann Brown, Superintendent Anna Cutaia-Leonard, Wayne McAllister, and BoE clerk Deb Carlton

Mr. Chapman reviewed with the committee next steps in the policy audit/revision project with CABA. The approximately 2 year long process will be facilitated by Vin Mustaro, who has been very responsive to our needs. There could be value in having Mr. Mustaro meet with the committee and/or board at some point.

Dr. Cutaia-Leonard expects we will receive the first policy revision packet in July, and we will be first tackling the 10 mandated policies we lack. The second packet will have half of the policies in need of revision. Work could begin over the summer, perhaps in August.

Mr. Chapman suggested perhaps dividing up policies among committee members, or some other similar strategy.

Dr. Cutaia-Leonard explained the revisions will be done in 4 equal installments. Mr. Mustaro will send a first version, the Board will consider that and make any desired changes, send it back for his ok, and then approve.

Mr. Chapman will be interested in CABA's opinion about the role of the board in this process. Their guidance will be appreciated.

Dr. Cutaia-Leonard cited the new graduation requirements policy as an example of one that is very prescriptive to us. She discussed the importance of distinguishing between administrative regulations and policy. The Board oversees the administering of policies by educators.

Mr. Chapman commented that scaffolding in this area is important to help the board see how roles and responsibilities are determined. Some policies, he added, are highly prescriptive by necessity, such as safe school climate.

The committee set forth some tentative meeting dates: 7/27, 8/10, 8/24, 9/14, 9/28, 10/26, 11/9, 11/23, 12/14, and 12/28.

Mr. Chapman also mentioned he had spoken with Attorney Sommaruga regarding policy 9400, Board Self-Evaluation. He felt what was in that policy was covered elsewhere and not needed; also, Mr. Chapman felt the old 9400 was not a policy he was interested in keeping. It is not relevant to how the board operates, and BoE development is covered in the goal setting policy. A self-evaluation policy is not required by law. He felt it would be a good discussion for the workshop in of how we want to conduct ourselves as a board.

Motion to adjourn from Mr. Cosgriff, second from Ms. Brown. Carried 3-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Chapman

John Chapman, Chair
Bylaws/Policy/Ethics Committee