

Policy Committee Remote Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 9, 2020 @ 3:30 PM

Attendees: Denise Day, Brian Cisneros, James Morse, Kenny Rotner, Wendy DiFruscio

Visitors: Attorney Allan Kropp – Drummond Woodsum

Denise called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM.

Dr. Morse opened the meeting by explaining that we have invited Attorney Allan Kropp to this meeting to assist the Policy Committee in reviewing the policies and procedures surrounding the Title XI legislative changes at the Federal level that the District will need to adopt prior to the August 2020 deadline.

The following policies and procedures are being reviewed: AC – Nondiscrimination/Equal Opportunity, ACAA – Harassment and Sexual Harassment of Students, ACCA-R – Student Discrimination/Harassment and Title XI Sexual Harassment Complaint procedure, ACAB – Harassment and Sexual Harassment of School Employees, and ACAB-R – Employee Discrimination/Harassment and Title XI Sexual Harassment complaint procedure.

Atty Allan Kropp joined the meeting, introduced himself and gave an overview of the Title XI legislative changes that affected the current District policies and provided sample policies for the committee.

Policy AC – Nondiscrimination/Equal Opportunity is very similar to the existing policy that the District currently has and explained that this is the general notice policy. The committee briefly discussed this policy.

Policy ACAA – Harassment and Sexual Harassment of Students is a broad-based policy that goes into effect for the 2020-21 school year. Atty Kropp explained the difference noted in this policy between the State and Federal requirements. Questions asked as to whether Federal laws would supersede State Law and if there was wiggle room or would we have to have the current language. Atty Kropp answered and moved onto the procedure for this policy.

Procedure ACAA-R – Harassment and Sexual Harassment of Students Procedure – Atty Kropp explained that there are three sections to this procedure: Section 1 – Definitions, Section 2 – Unlawful Discrimination/Harassment Complaint Procedure, and Section 3 – Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedure. Atty. Kropp reviewed each section individually with the committee, pointing out the differences, answering committee questions, and clarifying language and responsible parties for each section.

Jim interrupted Atty Kropp at 4:45PM as the committee also had an additional policy unrelated to Title IX that the committee needed to review. Jim asked Atty. Kropp if he was available to meet again later this month to continue review of the remaining policies, but asked if he would be able to provide customized policies so that they could be placed on the School Board agenda for a first read August 5th so that the District could meet the deadline.

Atty. Kropp stated that he would work with Catherine Plourde the Title IX coordinator and make that happen. Atty. Kropp left the meeting at 4:50.

The committee reviewed policy and procedure BEDB & R – Agenda Preparation Format and procedure. Jim explained that the requested change for the addition of a consent agenda was added, and also referenced the Town of Durham Agenda as an example. Kenny Rotner confirmed the procedure followed with a consent agreement.

Denise Day questioned the change for the placement of the Finance Committee Update following the Superintendent's Report.

No additional questions or comments. Meeting ended at 5:00 PM – Next meeting: July 16, 2020 with Atty. Kropp for continued review of Title IX customized policies.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy L. DiFruscio