

Policy Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, December 8, 2022 @ 3:30 PM

Attendees: Denise Day, Matt Bacon, Dan Klein, James Morse, Suzanne Filippone, Wendy DiFruscio. Absent:
Visitors: Catherine Plourde

Denise began the meeting by turning the meeting over to Catherine Plourde to review the Special Education policies that are on this agenda.

Catherine started with Policy IHB – Establishing Criteria for Special Education Evaluations in the Oyster River Cooperative School District. She stated that there were no substantial changes and that the language mirrors the NHSBA version, but our attorneys wrote this one. This policy can also include a rate schedule but felt that we did not want to be locked into that.

Denise clarified that our attorneys wrote this and not NHSBA. Matt asked if the wording “educationally disabled children” is appropriate or can changes be made.

Catherine explained that it could be changed but this policy is driving education and that this term is in the regulations. She also pointed out that “qualified” added to #2. There was no further discussion, and this policy will be labeled as reviewed.

Policy IHBA – Programs for Pupils with Disabilities – Catherine explained that the existing policy is outdated and will be deleted and replaced with the NHSBA version. There will also be a word change to “they” instead of he/she in the last paragraph. There was no additional discussion, and this is ready for a first read.

Policy IHBA – Evaluation Requirements for Children with Specific Learning Disabilities. This policy was reviewed with no changes. A brief discussion ensued surrounding certification and state requirements. This policy will be labeled as reviewed.

Policy IHBAC – Developmental Delay as Qualifying Disability – Catherine explained that this is a new policy for Oyster River. She compared the NHSBA version that is shown here with other area districts, and all are using this version.

Matt questioned the last paragraph and suggested that it be adjusted as #3 and to remove the “and” at the end of letter “e”. All agreed and this policy will go forward as a first read.

Policy IKFC – Alternate Diploma for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities – This policy is being revised as the law change the required age from 21 to 22 and there was also an additional title “Certificate of Completion” added. A slight adjustment to the last paragraph was made. This policy is ready for a first read.

Policy JICK – Bullying and Cyberbullying – Pupil Safety and Violence Prevention – Jim explained that he, Suzanne, and Catherine sat down with our attorney to revise this policy. There was a lot of language removed because the language is covered under separate policies. Matt questioned the language surrounding “perpetrator” and asked if different language could be used. Suzanne went on to explain that additional major changes were surrounding videotaping, and the appeal process was removed. The committee also stated that there are additional he/she language that needs to be removed throughout the document. There were no future questions, and this policy is ready for a first read.

At this point Catherine asked Denise if Policy ACE – Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Handicap/Disability could be added to this agenda for removal purposes. She explained that when the Policy ACAA – Harassment and Sexual Harassment was updated this policy should have been removed at that time. Denise confirmed that the information is in another policy. This policy will go for a first read for deletion.

There was no additional questions or comments. Meeting ended at 4:10 PM – Next meeting is scheduled for January 12, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy L. DiFruscio