

Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 9, 2021 @ 3:30 PM

Attendees: Denise Day, Tom Newkirk, Dan Klein, Suzanne Filippone, Wendy DiFruscio,

Visitors:

Denise Day began the meeting by asking Suzanne to begin her presentation.

Suzanne Filippone began by speaking about the changes to the discipline law that will affect the following policies: JICD, JICDD, JICH, and JICK. She explained that this review is due to both state and federal changes. She referred to her power point presentation. She stated that the law changes have already been reviewed by administration and they have also completed a training. She went on to explain that these changes do not really affect the practices that we have and that in her capacity of the high school principal she only had a few incidents including a bomb threat and drugs at school.

Suzanne explained that a Short Term Out of School Suspension does not exceed 10 consecutive school days and is for Behavior that is detrimental to the health, safety, or welfare of pupils or school personnel or repeated and willful disregard of the reasonable rules of the school that is not remediated through imposition of the district's graduated sanctions.

A Long Term Out of School Suspension may extend a student's suspension over 10 consecutive and is for an act of theft, destruction, or violence as defined in RSA 193-D, bullying pursuant to school district policy, JICK when the student has not responded to targeted interventions and poses an ongoing threat to the safety or welfare of another student, or possession of a firearm, BB gun, or paintball gun. She stated that there is very specific language and steps that need to be followed surrounding this type of suspension as well as for Due Process. She went on to also state that this does not impact OR very much and that our main concern is for keeping kids in school.

The committee members expressed concern surrounding having the School Board having the last word, concerns that incidents should remain private as they concern minors. Questioned how much leeway to change the language that is proposed. Additionally, the language is clear on how to expel, but is contradictory to how to re-instate a student and also who is the governing decision maker – the superintendent or school board.

Suzanne suggested that she will need to find out if the proposed language can be modified, she will clarify some language as well as removal of contradicting language and she suggested a possible establishment of a discipline committee. Suzanne will look further into the law and will revise policy JICD – Student Discipline and Due Process and bring it back to the committee at the January meeting.

There was no additional questions or comments. Meeting ended at 4:15 PM – Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 13th.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy L. DiFruscio
Executive Assistant