



Minutes
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
Avon Board of Education
34 Simsbury, Avon, Connecticut 06001
Via Zoom
Monday, February 13, 2023 – 5:00 p.m.

Attendance

Members Present: Laura Young, Chair; Thej Singh; Sarah Thompson

Member(s) Absent:

Administration Present: Dr. Bridget Heston Carnemolla, Superintendent of Schools; Jess Giannini, Assistant Superintendent

Others Present: Deb Chute, Board Chair; Nicole Russo; Christine Sardinkas, Recording Secretary;

- I. Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Committee Chair, Laura Young.
 - II. Approval of December 13, 2022 Minutes
Thej Singh moved to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2022 Policy Committee meeting, Sarah Thompson seconded.
The motion passed 3-0-0
 - III. Communication from Public
There was no communication from the public.
 - IV. Old Business –
 - a. Policy 5141.22 –Administration of Medication
 - Revise
Dr. Carnemolla explained that changes to the policy were in reference to state statutes specific to Glucose Monitoring Systems (finger sticks and self-monitoring of blood glucose levels by students) and the use of Narcan. Terminology changed from ‘Narcan’ to ‘Opioid Antagonists for Purposes of Emergency Aid’. An option to opt out of giving permission to administer an Opioid Antagonist to a student was also added. Proposed policy changes were reviewed by the District Medical Officer. Revisions also included an option for parents/guardians to opt out of Epinephrine (EpiPen)administration.
- Laura Young moved to bring forward to the full Board, Policy 5141.22 Administration of Medication as presented for a first read and possible action to adopt, Thej Singh seconded.*
The motion passed 3-0-0

V. New Business-Items for Review and Discussion

a. Policy 5141.7 – Exertional Heat Illness Awareness for Intramural and Interscholastic Athletics (New)

- Adopt Shipman & Goodwin Model Policy

Dr. Carnemolla explained that a new state mandate has been put into place regarding athletes and overexertion occurring during hot weather. Protocols on how to handle such situations are outlined in the policy and in the Athletic Handbook. The recommendation is to adopt the new Shipman & Goodwin model policy.

Laura Young moved to bring forward to the full Board, Policy 5141.7 – Exertional Heat Illness Awareness for Intramural and Interscholastic Athletics as presented for a first read and possible action to adopt, Sarah Thompson seconded. The motion passed 3-0-0.

b. Policy 5141.72– Emergency Action Plan for Interscholastic and Intramural Athletic Events (new)

- Adopt Shipman & Goodwin Model Policy

Dr. Carnemolla explained that a new state mandate has been put into place regarding a requirement to have protocols and descriptions of necessary steps to take in the event of an emergency situation occurring at an athletic event. Protocols on how to handle such situations are outlined in the policy and also in the Athletic Handbook. A question was raised about APS Athletic Trainer attendance. The Superintendent reported that one is present at every athletic event. AEDs are located at all schools and all coaches and administrators are trained in how to use them. Portable AEDs are used for games that are not held on Avon Public School grounds. The recommendation is to adopt the new Shipman & Goodwin model policy.

Laura Young moved to bring forward to the full Board, Policy 5141.72 – Emergency Action Plan for Interscholastic and Intramural Athletic Events as presented for a first read and possible action to adopt, Sarah Thompson seconded. The motion passed 3-0-0.

c. Policy 6148 - Policy to Improve Completion Rates of the FAFSA (new)

- Adopt Shipman & Goodwin Model Policy

Dr. Carnemolla explained that a new state mandate has been put into place to help improve FAFSA submission rates through offering assistance with form completion. Districts can help students/parents/guardians by hosting informational sessions. Each year the percentage

of students known to have filled out and submitted the FAFSA forms will be reported to the Superintendent. Although the potential for grants to aid in the facilitation of this process is mentioned in the policy, no funds are available to the district at this time. The recommendation is to adopt the new Shipman & Goodwin model policy.

Laura Young moved to bring forward to the full Board, Policy 6148 – Policy to Improve Completion Rates as presented for a first read and possible action to adopt, Thej Singh seconded. The motion passed 3-0-0.

d. Policy 1212 - School Volunteers, Student Interns and other Non-Employees

- Adopt Shipman & Goodwin Model Policy
- Replace Current Board Policy

Dr. Carnemolla explained that updates to state mandates require that all visitors must follow health and safety protocols in school buildings, including parent/guardian volunteers, as well as student interns and other non-employees. The recommendation is to replace the district's current policy with Shipman & Goodwin model policy.

Laura Young moved to bring forward to the full Board Policy 1212 School Volunteers, Student Interns and other Non-Employees as presented for a first read and possible action to adopt, Deb Chute seconded. The motion passed 3-0-0

e. Policy 1250 – Visitors and Observations in Schools

- Adopt Shipman & Goodwin Model Policy
- Replace Current Board Policy

Dr. Carnemolla explained that updates to state mandates require that all visitors must follow health and safety protocols in school buildings. This includes professionals who may need to come in and complete observations in the schools. The recommendation is to replace current policy with Shipman & Goodwin model policy.

Laura Young moved to bring forward to the full Board, Policy 1250 – Visitors and Observation in Schools as presented for a first read and possible action to adopt, Thej Singh seconded. The motion passed 3-0-0.

f. Policy 5144 - Student Discipline

- Adopt Shipman & Goodwin Model Policy

Dr. Carnemolla mentioned that this policy will likely require a second read, as there are numerous changes to be made. Board counsel and the Superintendent are recommending that the district replace the current Discipline policy with the Shipman & Goodwin model policy, not only to be in compliance with updates to state mandates, but also to provide baseline language, which can be more easily revised going forward. More than half of the current policy needs to be revised or added to. Therefore, adopting the recommended model policy would ensure compliance.

One Board member brought up the word ‘discretion’ in reference to policy language that says ‘at the Superintendent’s discretion’. Dr. Carnemolla stated that the matrix used for discipline does not always fit every child. Each individual case is different such as in severity level, history of past offenses, age of a student, etc. Furthermore, laws regarding student discipline continue to change. Discretion is necessary because there are also many factors that are considered when handling suspensions and/or expulsions, including confidentiality of each student's specific resulting discipline. Dr. Carnemolla addressed issues pertaining to students texting/posting on social media that may lead to disciplinary action. Even if such instances occur after or before school hours, there could be an impact and/or repercussions that may occur in the school setting. Policy language referring to “designated areas” was also discussed and clarified.

A decision was made to table further discussion of the Student Discipline policy until the next committee meeting.

Laura Young moved to table discussion of the Student Discipline policy, 5144, to continue for a second read at the next policy committee meeting, Sarah Thompson seconded. The motion passed 3-0-0

VI. Future Items for Review

VII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 6:53 pm.

Minutes prepared by Christine Sardinkas, Recording Secretary

Minutes respectfully submitted by Laura Young, Policy Committee Chair

Laura Young, February 21, 2023

Minutes respectfully received by Jeffrey S. Fleischman, Board Secretary

Jeffrey S. Fleischman,

Minutes are approved at the next Policy meeting, and any corrections to the minutes, if needed, will be made at that time.