

Brunswick School Board Policy Committee

Meeting Minutes for December 18, 2014

Members Present: Christopher McCarthy, Joy Prescott, James Grant
Other School Board Members: Brenda Clough

School Department: Paul Austin, Director of Student Services
Shanna Crofton, BHS Principal
Geno Ring, BHS Substance Abuse Counselor

Mr. McCarthy called the meeting to order at 5:45pm. There were no adjustments to the posted agenda.

1. The first order of business was the administrative procedures related to Brunswick Policy JICH. Although the administrative procedure does not require committee or Board action, Mr. Ring and Ms. Crofton wanted to update the Committee on several procedural changes in regards to actions taken with students involved in extra-curricular activities and who violate the Boards Chemical Use and Abuse Policy (JICH). Mr. Ring explained that the focus of the procedural changes is related to a more restorative outcome versus the more punitive nature of the previous procedures. Mr. Ring explained that the BHS Athletic Director reviewed similar administrative procedures across the state and that he, Mr. Ring, members of the guidance department, and the high school assistant principal worked on the new administrative procedures. Some of the most significant changes include that if a student voluntarily participates in a community based substance use/abuse program for high school students (12 hours to change 1 life) after the first offense, these students could potentially reduce the number of days that they are suspended from participation from 10 days to 5. Other changes included reducing the penalty of second offenses from a full year to 90 days; one year suspension from participation for a third offense (which used to be banned for remainder of high school); and added a fourth offense penalty of being banned from participation for the remainder of their high school career (subject to Board appeal). After a lengthy discussion, the committee determined that it would review Policy JICH at a future meeting to ensure that the policy is consistent with best practices. The Committee has also requested that BHS staff return later in the year to discuss how often their procedures are utilized and the effectiveness of their new procedures in deterring drug/alcohol use/abuse at BHS. The committee also requested more information about the 12 hour program that students will participate in.

2. For the second order of business, Mr. Austin updated the committee on his work with the Proficiency-based Policy Task Force in writing and recommending an updated Policy regarding graduation requirements. Mr. Austin noted his appreciation for the school members who have participated in this challenging, but important work. At this time, it is anticipated that the School Board Policy Committee will have a recommended draft to consider at its January meeting.

3. The last order of business was a discussion about Strategic Planning. At the last Policy Committee meeting, it was determined that the Policy Committee would develop an advisory ad hoc committee to write and recommend a strategic plan for the Brunswick School Department. This plan would be presented to the Policy Committee for consideration and once approved, would be subject to discussion and approval of the entire school Board. Mr. McCarthy had shared this at the December School Board meeting and requested members to contact him should they be interested in participating on the ad hoc committee. After discussion, the Policy Committee approved the structure of the ad hoc committee. This committee will include 3 to 4 school board members, 4 community members, and one member

from the Brunswick School Department Central Office. From the School Board, the members will be Joy Prescott, Chris McCarthy, and Brenda Clough. William Thompson and James Grant will serve as alternate members of the committee as needed. The committee elected Joy Prescott to chair that committee. After discussion, it was also decided that the Policy Committee will determine the selection process for community members at a January meeting.

Mr. McCarthy adjourned the meeting at 7:34 pm.

Respectfully Submitted on December 19, 2014 by Paul Austin