

WESTBROOK BOARD OF EDUCATION
EDUCATE, CHALLENGE, & INSPIRE

WESTBROOK BOARD OF EDUCATION Thursday, June 18, 2020 @ 4:15 pm Policy Subcommittee Meeting Google Meet

MINUTES

Members Present: Kim Walker, Zachary Hayden, Mary Ella Luft, Mike Esposito

Also Present: Attorney Natalia Siera-Millan, Ben Russell, IT Director, C. Kuehlewind,
T. Cozza

- I. Call to Order: The Policy Subcommittee meeting was called to order at 4:15 p.m. by Kim Walker, Chair.
- II. Continue discussion on updating online policies
 1. Review of Natalia Siera-Millan's Esq. findings: Attorney Siera-Millan provided a spreadsheet to assist the Committee in review of policies. The Committee agreed to review posted policies from other districts. Kim will assign a variety of districts to include neighboring schools, similar size schools and top ten schools, to each committee member to review that district's policies prior to the next policy meeting. They will also check on whether or not regulations are posted in other districts. Kim suggested the Committee start to review the 9000 series, which is the "guiding force for board members," and outlines code of conduct for BOE members. The Chair asked committee members to review policies 9000 through 9125 before the next scheduled regular Policy subcommittee meeting.

In his effort to be fiscally responsible, M. Esposito questioned if it is common to work with the attorney on policy. Attorney Sierra-Milan responded it is common to follow up on Board requests and to provide updates and recommendations.
- III. Review CT General Statutes 10-218 - Officers, Meetings: K. Walker read the statute to the Committee which clarifies procedure for election of officers, including language that ballots are made public.
- IV. Review of Bylaws 9120, 9221, 9122 – Applicable to Election of Board Officers: Attorney Sierra Milan provided updates of policies 9120, 9221 and 9122 as there is conflicting wording in the policies to which Atty. Anne Littefield followed up on from the June 9 BOE meeting discussion. The Committee reviewed each of the updated

policies. The Chair suggested the Committee not rush through and to continue to review these policies. She commented on the wording in 9120 referring to “paper ballot”.

M. Esposito questioned the need for policies when CT State Statutes dictate the law. Natalia explained that the district’s policies are customized to the District and policies protect and hold the District accountable. She stated that Shipman and Goodwin’s approach to writing policy is in accordance with state statutes and mirrors the law. Many of Westbrook’s policies are CABA policies which tend to use more language and some have been revised to customize to Westbrook’s needs.

The Committee agreed to meet on July 9 at 4:15 p.m. after reviewing other district’s similar policies. The Committee will continue revising Bylaws 9120, 9221, and 9122 at this meeting. Natalia will hold that date open if needed.

- V. Adjourn: Moved by M. Luft and seconded by Z. Hayden to adjourn at 5:25 p.m. Vote unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Walker, Chair

Cecilia S. Lester, Board Recording Clerk

Approved: July 23, 2020