



NOT FINAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD

**BURLINGTON BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS
GOVERNANCE, POLICY & ADVOCACY COMMITTEE MINUTES
January 24, 2017**

Board Committee: Commissioner Liz Curry (chair); Commissioners Anne Judson, Susanmarie Harrington, Jacob Bucci (Student Representative)

Administration: Nate Lavery, Senior Director of Finance; Yaw Obeng, Superintendent; Brittany Nevins, Executive Assistant; Tracy Racicot, BHS Principal

1. The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

A. Moved by Harrington/Judson
Unanimously approved

B. Motion to Amend Agenda to Include Urgent Need to Consider Revisions to Conflict of Interest Policy.
(Judson/Harrington), unanimous vote.

3. Public Comment:

A. Comments and Questions from the Public:
No public present.

4. Conflict of Interest Policy

- Need policy that is consistent with federal regulations
- Examine current policy language that's changed over time to determine what is necessary and pertinent to the conflict of interest policy we need now, and what should be removed and/ or moved to Board Ethics policy, e.g..
- Have Joe look at regulatory requirement , determine what is essential, research other districts, and make a recommendation.
- Look at whether we should have separate conflict of interest policy for Board and staff
- Administration will send out information for review by committee before next meeting.

5. Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Students Policy

- Administration is looking at transgender guidelines suggested by State and I Outright Vermont, for guidance in recommending language. .
- State has put out recommended guidelines, not a mandate.

Administration will be continuing effort around this to reconcile implementation challenges like students' rights and parents rights.

6. Planning for Graduation Requirements Policy Review/Revisions

- Transitional plan possibly needed to go from credits to proficiency system.
- Part of the conversation is curriculum design, which is under the Superintendent's responsibility,, but the board is responsible for a policy that is compliant with the State requirements (G15).
- Current Policy G15 does not reflect current practices; administration will bring back proposal for interim policy to cover a transitional period until Administration fully designs proficiency-based learn plan. Target date is April 2017
- Administration will plan to give presentation on proficiency-based learning at some point in next six months

7. Mission/Vision/Core Beliefs Recommendation

- See BoardDocs for recommendation (6A).
- Recommendation comes from strategic planning process where the administration received feedback from broad base of community stakeholders.

The mission of the Burlington School District is to graduate students who:

Revise to:

- *value different cultures*
- *engage with the community*
- *communicate effectively,*
- *think creatively*
- *skillfully solve problems*
- *achieve at their highest academic, intellectual and personal potential.*

We believe:

- *Every child can succeed.*
 - *Families and community are partners in educating our children.*
 - *Diversity and inclusion promote strong schools and communities.*
 - *A welcoming, supportive climate fosters learning.*
 - *Self-reflection and accountability improve our practices.*
- Motion to endorse (Harrington/Judson) - approved unanimously
 - Will go under Policy Governance Report to board.

8. Student Updates

- Student representative Bucci will give update at next meeting around condom education and progress.

9. Update on Legislative Advocacy

- Commissioner Seguino worked with VSBA to draft letter to Senator Baruth and requested a meeting to meet with him to discuss private schools taking public tuition without having to comply with special ed requirement.

- Senator Baruth is requesting a public comment around changes to ACT 46. Chair Curry would like to have a community and committee meeting to have legislative discussion.
- Committee Chair Curry will ask Senator Baruth what the timeline will be.

10. Update on Policy Governance Plan

11. Adjournment

- A. *Meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM.
(Harrington/Judson) - approved unanimously*

Plan for next meeting will be February 28th.

Respectfully submitted by
Brittany Nevins