

**CITY OF PORTSMOUTH
LEGAL DEPARTMENT
MEMORANDUM**

DATE: MARCH 23, 2016

TO: PORTSMOUTH SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: POLICY COMMITTEE

RE: MARCH 23, 2016 MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Leslie Stevens, Ann Walker, Steve Zadavec and Kathleen Dwyer

Policies Considered:

Wellness (JLCF)

The Committee brought back their comments on this policy from the last meeting. There was a general discussion regarding food currently offered in vending machines and machines accessible to students during the school day. There was also discussion regarding after school sales of food items. Leslie reported that she does not think that the High School offers food by booster clubs as was done in the past. Food Service has begun offering meals for sports teams in their place.

There was a discussion regarding the progress reporting required by the draft policy and other compliance requirements. The Committee questioned who would be responsible for the compliance requirements of the policy and for convening required meetings. Steve reported that compliance for these matters would fall to the Office of the Superintendent or by the Assistant Superintendent.

The draft of the Wellness Policy also includes a section on Physical Activity. The Committee questioned whether or not this was duplicative of the Physical Activity policy or whether a separate policy is required by State law. Kathleen checked and the Daily Physical Activity policy is required by DOE regulations.

There some minor wording changes recommended that will be made and the policy will be recommended for first reading by the School Board.

Admission of Homeless Students (JFABD)

Leslie reported that this policy was revised by the Board at the last meeting, but that a question had arisen regarding the apportionment of liability for transportation. The policy read that, in the case of a dispute between two districts, admission would be delayed. Kathleen checked and this appears to be a typographical error and that it should read that "admission should not be delayed." In the event that two districts cannot come to agreement regarding apportionment of liability for transportation, it is divided equally between the districts. This typographical will be corrected consistent with the Board's vote. Paulette will be requested to make this correction and repost it to the website.

Extra and Co-Curricular Activities (IGD)

There was a general discussion regarding underage drinking parties and the impact a student's presence and/or participation in drinking on participation in extra-curricular activities. There was also a discussion regarding the types of consequences the Disciplinary Committee imposes.

Kathleen reminded the Committee of the history of this policy. At one time, the policy included language regarding students knowingly being present at events with underage drinking. This was removed a number of years ago as it was difficult to prove the "knowing" element. There was also discussion regarding some parties that are actually condoned by parents who merely take the keys away from participating students. The Committee felt strongly that, since underage drinking is illegal under any circumstance, the decision of a student to attend a party where there is underage drinking, there should be a consequence for that decision. Kathleen will bring back draft language regarding presence of students where underage drinking is happening.

The Disciplinary Committee currently imposes game suspensions in the case of students who have consumed alcohol. Students can reduce the length of the suspension by participating in community service and for admitting to drinking. There was a sense by the Committee that automatic reduction in suspensions has been used by students merely as a device to reduce the suspensions, and not the general purpose of being truthful. The Committee will invite the Disciplinary Committee to a meeting to discuss the existing practices and procedures to evaluate if there are any changes to be recommended.

Next Meeting: Friday, May 4, 2016