

**CITY OF PORTSMOUTH
LEGAL DEPARTMENT
MEMORANDUM**

DATE: MAY 11, 2017

TO: PORTSMOUTH SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: POLICY COMMITTEE

RE: MAY 11, 2017 MEETING MINUTES

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

Others Present: Paulette Rouse

Policies Considered:

Evaluation Requirements for Children with Learning Disabilities (IHBA)

Kathleen explained that she had made additional revisions to this policy after the last Policy Committee meeting. There are changes on-going with the New Hampshire Regulations for Special Education. The new language is based upon the model policy from the New Hampshire School Boards Association. Their comments recommended a policy that references the New Hampshire Department of Education Special Education Policies and Procedures Manual. Kathleen said that she would add the link in the policy.

Independent Evaluations Requirements for Children with Learning Disabilities (IHBAB)

Kathleen explained that a similar approach will be taken with the policy as IHBA, with the addition of language regarding a school district's right to evaluate in the first instance and a link to the DOE website.

Student Assessment (IKA)

This was an archived policy that had gone to first reading in 2005 and never to second reading. The Committee reviewed the list of various methods by which a student can be assessed and report card requirements. This policy will be re-drafted and recommended for first reading by the School Board.

Patriotism (IMDA)

This policy was archived and brought forward for re-inclusion in the Policy Manual. Both the Federal and State Law require educational opportunities regarding the Pledge of Allegiance and the Star Spangled Banner, as well as the commemoration of the signing of the Constitution. The policy also addresses recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and display of the flag.

Non Policy Items Discussed:

School Resource Officer Memorandum of Understanding

Based upon finalization of the changes to the MOU, Steve gave a copy to the Chief of Police and is waiting to hear back from him.

Field Trips

Kathleen explained that this was one of the issues recently discussed with the School Nurses. Sometime in the past, an effort had been made to make all district permission slips for field trips uniform, but that over time, that uniformity has eroded. An effort will be made to get back to a uniform permission slip.

Leslie brought up the issue of payment for field trips for some families. She inquired as to whether or not the permission form could have a check off box if the student was in need of financial assistance for field trips. The Committee discussed the need for complete confidentiality and sensitivity of staff on this issue. The policy will be reviewed at the next meeting of the Committee.

Recommended Board Actions:

Approve: (first reading of two)

Independent Educational Evaluations (IHBAB)
Patriotism (IMDA)
Special Education Evaluations (IHBAA)
Student Assessment (IKA)

Items for Next Meeting of Policy Committee:

Scholarships
Honors
Field Trips

Next Meeting: Friday, June 2, 2017, 9:00 a.m.