

New Bedford School Committee

Sub-Committee on Policy
Paul Rodrigues Administration Building
Rm. 224

Thursday, March 19, 2015
Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order: Meeting began at 6:33 P.M.

2. Roll Call of Committee:

Present: Chair, Mr. Joshua Amaral, Mr. Bruce Oliveira

Absent: Ms. Marlene Pollock

Present: Dr. Durkin, Mr. DeFalco, Dr. Rabinovitch, Mr. O’Leary, Mr. Carvalho,
Mrs. Dunaway (Recording Secretary)

MASC Field Representative – Michael Gilbert

3. Review of Minutes: Mr. Oliveira made a motion to accept the November 24, 2014 meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Amaral. All voted in favor.

Mr. Gilbert attended the meeting to review and to explain the new policy review process going forward. It was suggested that Policy Sub Committee meetings be held more often to accomplish the task of completing a new MASC Policy Manual for New Bedford Public Schools. Among the advantages the Committee will have after reviewing, re-writing and voting on new policies, MASC will supply paper copies in binder form and add an on line version for our website and theirs. Updates on the law and suggested revisions to our policies will be forwarded to the Committee on a regular basis.

4. Proposals

a. Review to Approve File: GCCD - Domestic Leave Policy

A sample policy from the MASC was reviewed. It was recommended that the leave would be unpaid, keeping it consistent with other LOAs such as FMLA, etc.

On a motion by Mr. Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Amaral, it was voted to amend the Student Transportation Policy and to send to the full committee for approval

b. Review to Amend File: EEA – Student Transportation Policy

The current policy “Student Transportation Services” and a draft of a potential revised policy “Student Transportation Policy” were reviewed.

New policy key points include:

- Students in Grades K-5: K-5 students will receive transportation if the distance is over 1.5 miles between a student’s residence and the school he/she is entitled to attend.

- At the noon hour only: Pre-Kindergarten students will be transported if the distance is over 1 mile.
- Students in Grades 6-12: Grades 6-12 will receive transportation if the distance between the student's residence and the school he/she is entitled to attend exceeds 2 miles.
- School bus stops will be designated at centralized locations. Students are not entitled to street-by-street or door-to-door pick up and/or delivery. The distance over the most direct public ways between an eligible student's residence and the nearest school bus stop shall not exceed 1 mile, in accordance with state law.

Dr. Rabinovitch explained that this new policy, if approved, will save the district approximately \$600,000.

Mr. Amaral pointed out that there are several areas in the city that are unsafe and less than 1.5 miles to a school. Dr. Rabinovitch stated that an internal review committee was being put together to review potential problematic areas.

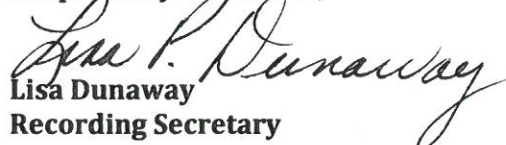
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5. Other Business – Mr. Amaral brought up the issue of opting out of PARCC testing.

6. Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Oliveira, seconded by Mr. Amaral. All voted in favor to adjourn at 7:30 P.M.

Next Meeting: *Thursday, May 14, 2015*

Respectfully submitted,


Lisa Dunaway
Recording Secretary