

New Bedford School Committee

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

Thursday, August 28, 2014
Meeting Minutes

1. **Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance: Meeting began at 5:00pm**
2. **Roll Call of Committee Members: Bruce Oliveira, Marlene Pollock and Joshua Amaral**
3. **Review of Minutes: Mr. Oliveira made a motion to accept the January 23, 2014, seconded by Ms. Pollock. All voted in favor.**
4. **New Business**
 - a. **Finger Printing- HCS Executive Director, Ms. Emsley**
 - i. District doesn't pay for fingerprinting process to be completed.
 - ii. All chaperones should be fingerprinted if they are going to be alone with students.
 - iii. All overnight chaperones have to be fingerprinted.
 - iv. All adults with direct access to students will require fingerprinting.
 - v. Letter of suitability is possible for those that move from 1 district to another.
 - b. **Motion made by Mr. Oliveira to accept fingerprinting policy, seconded by Mr. Amaral. All voted in favor.**
 - c. **New Bedford High School- Ms. Dawson shared an update from her discussions around below school policies:**
 - i. **Cell phones – proposed use before and after school and during lunch only. Must keep the focus on teaching and learning.**
 1. Ms. Pollock – Keep cell phones away.
 2. Mr. Amaral - How much time will be spent on investigating cell phone issues? Is there something that a parent or student should have to sign? Developing responsibility?
 3. Ms. Dawson – We need to effectively follow through on whatever our agreed upon policy will be.
 4. Ms. Pollock – Conflict resolution and the ESR work may help support this issue.
 - ii. **Attendance Policy:**
 1. Ms. Dawson –Students can earn back credits but due to record keeping it is very challenging. The real issue is how students miss a large

number of days and still pass. We are looking at grading and rigor in the classroom.

2. Ms. Pollock- Sometimes we need to look at non-academic issues that can prevent students from coming to school.
3. Mr. Oliveira – This policy must be reviewed and in forced.

iii. Dress Code:

1. All staff should dress professionally.

iv. Discipline Policy- Ms. Dawson shared that discipline policies haven't been implemented well. We need to build a positive school climate. Students being sent out of class is not the 1st action. We'll be collecting data and communicating back to the teacher on how he/she is progressing with behavioral issues.

1. Ms. Pollock – The big issue with bullying is taking place on the buses.
2. Ms. Dawson- we will be working to address these issues.
3. Mr. Amaral- when things don't work we can't hide them. We must address them.

5. **Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Oliveira, seconded by Ms. Pollack. All voted in favor. All voted in favor to adjourn at 6:00pm**

Respectfully submitted,



Jason DeFalco, Chief Academic Officer