

New Bedford Public Schools
Paul Rodrigues Administration Building
455 County Street, Room 224
New Bedford, MA 02740

Policy Sub-Committee Meeting
April 30, 2018
6:00 p.m.

Present: Mr. Bruce Oliveira, Mr. Joshua Amaral, Mr. Christopher Cotter, Ms. Colleen Dawicki

Also in attendance: Dr. Pia Durkin, Dr. Jason DeFalco, Mr. Will Gardner, Ms. Bernadette Coelho, Mr. Joshua Almeida, Mr. Thomas Tarpey

Mr. Amaral called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

8th Grade Dual Enrollment Program for in-district would move forward. Mr. Oliveira clarified. Mr. Gardner would like Alma to continue. Three will go to NBHS from Alma in the honors. Ms. Bernadette noted that 24 applied and 23 got in. Six going to NBHS, 5 accepted and committed. Mr. Gardner would like to have scholars come back. Discussion ensued regarding impact on class size and resources on the High School. Ms. Coelho said there would be no impact; Alma students would be clustered due to scheduling; success being defined by Chapter 70, resources on issue; \$1,500 being used to educate students. Mr. Oliveira asked Mr. Gardner what he could do for NB. Mr. Gardner said he could help with classroom expenses, PD, but open to talk more about this. Mr. Cotter indicated that the parents shared that it is a charter school, so why were we educating those students? Not an effect on five students. Mr. Amaral suggested this gets passed to the full School Committee. It didn't cost anything more. Ms. Coelho noted it didn't affect the overall schedule. Mr. Cotter added that it was a time cost, not a financial cost. Mr. Gardner said that the overall strategy can be financial. Ms. Dawicki made a motion to present to the full Committee.

There was discussion regarding cell phones. Mr. Almeida indicated that the policy is as is, only that procedures needed

to be tightened. He also said that the change is that relationships are key: went from double-digit calls daily to one or two, and there is no issue with the policy.

New Business: Mr. Amaral raised the issue of the Pregnancy Fairness Act. Ms. Dawicki made a motion to update the policy to add pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions.

Mr. Amaral introduced the subject of interscholastic athletics and called on Mr. Oliveira to discuss. Mr. Oliveira said that 4 members can make a change to the policy; that NBHS has an 8th grader on its varsity team and questioned whether this was in the school's best interest. Mr. Tarpey noted that safety is a concern for the 8th graders who must be trained, many of whom have no experience. Mr. Oliveira expressed a concern that the School Committee had not been notified. Mr. Tarpey explained the waiver process, for which each 8th grader must apply. A copy of the waiver is sent to the School Committee Chair and Superintendent. Mr. Tarpey also stated that the 8th graders do not push out any of the JV or Varsity students, that the numbers presented include 8th graders on both JV and Varsity. There was concern among other School Committee members about the lack of HS students participating in sports and the manner in which the School Department can cultivate interest in HS sports. Ms. Coelho said she would survey prospective 9th graders to see how many were planning to attend and why. Mr. Tarpey will provide a seasonal report to the School Committee.

Mr. Amaral commented that there is no need for a policy regarding voter registration forms at the Family Welcome Center.

A motion was made by Ms. Dawicki to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m., which was seconded by Mr. Amaral.

Respectfully submitted,



Jason DeFalco, Ed.D.
Deputy Superintendent