

WEST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
November 15, 2010
Policy Committee Meeting – Savin Rock Community School

The Policy Committee Meeting of the Board of Education was held at Savin Rock Community School, 50 Park Street, West Haven, CT on November 15, 2010. The meeting was called to order by Rob Saley, Chairman of the Policy Committee at 6:05 p.m. and opened with a pledge to the flag.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

IN ATTENDANCE:

Robert Saley, Chairman
M. Toni Paine
Eric Murillo

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

ABSENT:

Patrick Egolum

BOARD MEMBERS

IN ATTENDANCE:

Howard Horvath Jr., Chairman
Sean Maher
Mark Palmieri
Andrew DePalma

BOARD MEMBERS

ABSENT:

Dorinda Borer

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Neil Cavallaro, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Anne Druzolowski, Assistant Superintendent
Dave Cappetta, Director of Finance

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

PRESENT:

Gypsy Garcia
Brandon Patterson

Rob Saley welcomed everyone to the West Haven Board of Education Policy Meeting for November 15, 2010. He introduced Donna Kosiorowski, RN MS NESN, Supervisor School Health Services who discussed the following requested changes to Board Policies:

AED #5141.27 (a)

Medication #5141.21

Pediculosis #5141.221

Communicable Disease Policy

Program Accessibility required by OCR to implement Title II of the ADA-NEW

Donna provided a summary of what was discussed during this meeting.

The summary is attached on the following page.

The Academic Integrity Policy was also discussed immediately following this.

***Summary of Policy Committee Meeting Proposed Policies- November 15, 2010
Donna Kosiorowski RN MS NCSN, Supervisor School Health Services***

Automatic External Defibrillators (5141.27)

Requires schools districts who have AED's to train school personnel and to have trained school personnel available at all school sponsored functions. Requires Athletic Departments to have an emergency response plan. AED's are in every school building. Elementary schools (PreK-K – 4) have 1 AED, Carrignan (5-6) have 2, Bailey (7-8) have 2 and the high school has 5. AED's are maintained by the School Health Department and the Custodians.

Schools, under the direction of the school nurse and school principal, have emergency response plans for each building. Training for school personnel occurs every year for coaches to meet requirements for certification and every 2 years for everyone else. School personnel trained in CPR and AED are:

- School nurses
- Coaches
- Principals
- Some Central Office Staff
- Other staff who requested training

Physical examinations for School Programs (Athletics- 51414.31)

Physical examination form and sports form are combined into 1 form which is used for both school and sports physicals. Athletic physicals are now in effect for 13 months. Compliance with pre tryout and sports exams is good. Collaboration with nurses, coaches and AD is the key to this success.

Pediculosis (head lice)

Recommendation: elimination of policy and incorporate lice under ***Communicable Diseases*** (5141.22). Current policy is outdated and was inserted without input.

Research and evidence based recommendations (documents supplied to Board members) are not to exclude students from school and not to exclude for prolonged amount of time. Disrupts learning without medically sound rationale.

Medication Administration (5141.21)

New regulations resulted in lots of changes in the current policy.

Changes include:

***Summary of Policy Committee Meeting Proposed Policies- November 15, 2010
Donna Kosiorowski RN MS NCSN, Supervisor School Health Services***

- Expanded school personnel who can administer from teachers and principals to teachers and principals, paraprofessionals (under certain conditions) and coaches (under certain conditions) and OT, PT and athletic trainers (if full time and Board employee) to administer medication.
- Self administration of medications for students with asthma inhalers and cartridge injectors without approval of school nurse.
- Before and After School Programs and Readiness Programs to comply with medication regulations if under the Board of Education (ex. Community House).
- Increases amount of medication school may store from 45 day supply to 3 month supply.
- Expands the expiration of the medication order from school year to 12 months.
- Expands “authorized prescriber” from Physician, Dentist, PA, APRN to Physician, Dentist, PA, APRN, Optometrist (within scope of practice) and Podiatrist (within scope of practice).

Program Accessibility in All West Haven Public Schools/Facilities (New)

Recommendation from Board Attorney, Michele Laubin, to comply with the OCR and ADA.

Recommendations for all of the above:

Approve after January 1, 2011. Medication Administration Policy will be finalized after a scheduled technical assistance workshop on 12/13/10 to be attended by Supervisor of School Health, School Medical Advisor and a school nurse.

Ask CABA if stand alone Pediculosis policy is required.

Rob asked board members to read the information that Donna passed out and then have the Superintendent of Schools email it to CABA so they could look at it and then have Donna come back in again in a couple of months to see where we are. Donna stated that would be great because December 13th is the meeting for the medication issue and we will be ready after Christmas to do that. Rob stated that would be perfect. Donna thanked the board for the opportunity to address all of them.

A discussion on The Academic Integrity Policy at WHHS followed. Rob stated that the repercussions only address honor students. He doesn't think it addresses academic eligibility or as Sean Maher mentioned in our meeting the Arts and extra curricular activities. Rob spoke to Mr. Mustaro at CABA who explained to him that coaches have their own policies that they have to follow.

Neil Cavallaro thought the difference is academics are a requirement and sports and extra-curricular activities are a privilege. He thinks coaches do hold their players and teams to a higher standard and for the most part they do.

Rob said he understands but look at the repercussions for numbers 1, 2, and 3. It takes away Bayer Honors and National Honors. If a kid is on the soccer team and not even close to being on Bayer's Honor Society and gets caught cheating what happens to him?

Toni Paine said she would think if he was caught cheating he probably would receive a zero for the task at hand which would lower his grade and she believes there is a grade level to maintain to be in sports so perhaps that is how it would show up. This is just a thought.

Rob said they have that in the policy right now if you look at the 1, 2, and 3 steps it addresses this. The first time you get a zero and that encompasses everybody. After the second and third one it only takes away two things. What you are saying is when a persons GPA drops below a certain level he/she gets removed from sports. Rob said he would ask some of the coaches in regard to that. He feels the punishment is just for a select group of kids it is not for the whole student body.

Toni said if a student with a low GPA is caught cheating and is not in the Honor Society and they don't have anything special bestowed upon them that they could take away. You would have quite a few things there that you would have to list to take away from a student. Rob understands. Toni said maybe we need to revisit it and say what can we generalize.

Mark Palmieri said why don't we let it go for now and see how it works and then we can build on that. Rob said he is just discussing it he is not looking to amend anything he is just asking for discussion. Mark said lets see how it works first and then go from there. He agrees with Rob but they put this in place let's see how it works. Rob said the question is what is going to happen and Mark said hopefully nothing. They both said they anticipate nothing happening. Rob said he doesn't want to wait a year or two years he would like to look at it. Mark said at the end of this school year let's see what

happens they just put it in place let's give it the six months. Tell Mark Consorte to give you the information and come July we will look into it and if we need to we can change it for next year.

Neil said when the board passed this policy it was a proactive approach and one of the things he liked best about that policy in all the policies that were passed in his time up here was that it was driven by the students. The students own it and will try to make it successful and will probably come back with better solutions and ideas than we can ever come up with here. The other comment I would like to make relative to any policy or any rules are things that put too many specific consequences as a result of those rules. I'm a believer that there should not be any automatic punishments; you have to look at the child, the offense, the record and there are a lot of things you should take into consideration prior to arbitrarily passing a policy. Obviously there are laws regarding drugs and things like that which we have zero tolerance for but I don't like policies that said if you do this then we automatically or arbitrarily punish you by doing this. That is always a concern of mine when we rewrite the handbook every year or when the board passes a policy or even for that matter when I was on the City Council and we passed an ordinance which a lot of time people would say that is a great ordinance how are you going to enforce it? How are you going to make sure that every time someone commits that offense you are going to be able to say this is what the punishment should be. This is just maybe a word of caution before we proceed and make something so specific that we end up actually hurting ourselves. He knows what the intent is and thinks it is a good one but I would worry that if we were to be too specific on any consequences.

Rob said this is one of the reasons I like discussion. He will talk to Jon Capone and see what our academic eligibility is vs. the CIAC's academic eligibility. Neil said we follow the CIAC's academic eligibility which is you must pass four subjects in order to be eligible. Neil said there is no grade point average attached to this. Rob said we don't even have the C Rule; Neil said we don't. We follow the CIAC eligibility requirement which says you have to pass four subjects. Eric Murillo asked what the passing grade is. The passing grade is a D to be eligible. Rob said he will talk to Jon Capone to get the guidelines for this and then hopefully we will be able to discuss this more.

There was no further conversation. Rob asked for a motion to close the meeting.

Toni Paine made the motion.

Eric Murillo seconded the motion.

All were in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Marylou C. Amendola
Board Secretary