Board of Education Policy Committee Member Present:

Cheryl A. P. McClellan, Chair

Also Present:

Kathleen Bengtson, Administrative Assistant
Natalie Forbes, Director of Grants
Mary Emerling, School Health Supervisor
Donna Marino, Family Resource Coordinator
Kim Gauthier, Resident/MPA Student

Meeting was called to order at 8:30 A.M.

The following policies and bylaws were reviewed:

#6146 – Graduation Requirements (Colleen Weiner) - This policy requires a change in the number of credits for the 2023 graduation year. Ralph D’Amato had stated that World Language needs 2 credits not 1 to make the total of 25 credits correct.

Because Colleen Weiner and/or Ralph D’Amato were unable to attend this meeting, the committee decided to table it and review it again at its next meeting.

#1211 – Community Relations for School Governance/Leadership Councils (Donna Marino)

Donna spoke to this proposed new policy. It is aligned to our SOP Goal 4.5 School Autonomy and we are moving towards having school governance/leadership councils for all schools. This would be an advisory body of student, parents, staff and community members to address the needs and wants of each school.

The past year was spent evaluating the current state mandated Governance Council structure and effectiveness in working towards the new design for all schools. Donna covered the design process to include surveys, discussions with parents, staff, administration and previous Governance participants, and review of national work in this area. Students, parents, staff and community members were part of the design which includes a commitment to building relationships with parents and having parents and community members and students at decision making tables.

We have been using Governance Councils since 2009 so we have tested the process and used that data in the redesign, i.e. using percentages for membership versus exact numbers with the current
governance, meeting less often, membership selection process. Donna addressed the question of “is this one more thing the Principals have to do?” by highlighting that some schools without governance councils use their PTA/O in this advisory capacity and or may have advisory councils in other formats which include parents. We talked about the importance of advising on SIP and Budgets. Also pointed out was the research around decision making as a part of the framework for Parent Engagement and this aligns to our previously adopted parent engagement policy and our Title 1 policy. Other questions were around recruitment of a diverse group of participants and their commitment to being on councils and the training requirements. Donna stated this work will come under the responsibly of the Office of Family Engagement including our Family Resource Center and Home Visiting staff. Donna talked about trainings to include Parent University offerings.

We have put in the parameters that they will meet with Superintendent twice a year. Parent engagement is a continuum of engagement that we want to support. Formalizing the advisory council mode with schools that didn’t have the governance council.

Mary Emerling asked if it was only two meetings a year. Cheryl was concerned it might be too much to ask of parents. Donna stated it only required two meetings. One could be in October to state what they would like to see for the year and the other at the end of the school year to determine what was accomplished. Donna said there was a meeting on June 17, 2019 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Youth Services, where participants will review a draft of this policy. and she invited Cheryl to attend. It will have a table talk - Parent leadership - parent voice. The BOE is invited.

Cheryl McClellan wants this to be only a first reading to make sure it is what everyone wants to do. She would like to see more comments and feedback. She does not want to bring forward a policy that would put too much of a burden on parents and/or Principals. First reading will be at the September BOE meeting.

Cheryl stated that at end of day, the BOE desires to do what the community wants.
We need to put the Governance law legal reference at the bottom of this policy

The Policy Committee requested this New Policy #1211 be brought forward to the next BOE meeting for its first reading.

#6161.3 – Comparability of Services (Natalie Forbes)

Natalie spoke to this policy. She reviewed our present policy against the policy suggestions from CABE and made the necessary changes to bring this mandated policy up-to-date. She stated our title 1 grant is per pupil allocation. The grant is divided up among five schools. Salaries are full salaries and the way it is designated is acceptable to the state instead of piece meal it. Everything is documented in our grant application. This policy reflects the grant we submit.

The changes are as follows:

The Superintendent or his/her designee shall pursue funding under Title I of the Federal Strengthening and Improving of Elementary and Secondary Schools Act Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) to supplement
instructional services and activities in order to improve the educational opportunities of educationally disadvantaged or deprived children.

All District schools, regardless of whether they receive Title I funds, shall provide services that, taken as a whole, are substantially comparable. Teachers, administrators and other staff shall be assigned to schools in a manner that ensures equivalency among the District’s schools. Curriculum materials and instructional supplies shall be provided in a manner that ensures equivalency among the District’s schools.

Comparability, is defined, for purposes of this policy that the District uses state and local funds to provide services to Title I schools that are comparable to those offered in non-Title I schools in order to get federal funding under ESSA.

The Board of Education believes that at all times its schools should be equally as well equipped and maintained as may be possible within existing financial limitations.

It shall be the policy of the Board of Education to ensure comparability of services funded by state and local sources in both Title I project schools and non-project schools. The Board of Education will therefore:

1. Establish and maintain a district-wide salary schedule.
2. Provide services with federal, state and local funds in schools serving Title I project areas that are at least comparable to services in non-project areas.
3. Use federal, state and local funds to provide for an equivalence among all schools with the same grade levels in teachers, administrators, auxiliary personnel.
4. Use federal, state and local funds to provide for an equivalence among all schools with the same grade levels in the provision of curriculum and instructional materials, books and supplies.
5. Nothing in this policy will prohibit the administration from addressing identified problems at individual schools.

The District shall maintain records that are updated annually documenting its compliance with this ESSA requirement.

For the purposes of determining comparability in compliance with 20 U.S.C. 6321(c), the District, may exclude:

1. State and local funds expended for English Learners language instruction education programs.
2. Excess costs associated with providing services to students with disabilities.
3. Unexpected changes in enrollment or personnel assignments occurring after the beginning of the school year.
4. Other expenditures from supplemental state or local funds consistent with the intent of Title I (serving only children who are failing, or most at risk of failing, to meet the State’s standards)

The Superintendent or his/her designee shall provide in a timely manner all assurances, documentation, or other information required by the State Department of Education to demonstrate the District’s compliance with Title I fiscal requirements.

Nothing in this policy will prohibit the administration from addressing identified problems at individual schools.


Title I Improving Basic Programs Operated by State and Local Educational Agencies, Improving Every Student Succeeds Act, P.L. 114-95, Section 1118c of Title I, ESEA/ESSA

20 U.S.C. Section 6321(c)


The Policy Committee requested this Revised Policy #6161.3 be brought forward to the next BOE meeting for its first reading.

#5131.82 Use of Private Technology Devices by Students -- This subject has been a concern for many individuals. Cheryl McClellan stated members of the Board of Education have asked her about this policy. They were invited to this meeting.

Mike Skott stated that some parents are texting students quite often during school hours for non-emergency subjects, such as, “Mom wants to know what you want for dinner for today, etc.”. He also stated that Kathy and he had been talking about this subject the past few months and they had reviewed the policy. The current policy seems adequate and doesn’t requiring any changes. We can put a regulation in place to be more specific on how cell phones should be handled.

Kathy said she spoke with Dr. Conner and he was not in favor of having cell phones in the classroom.

Mary Emerling expressed the fact that cell phones are not allowed in the nurse’s office. She also wondered if there was any documentation or data which would suggest whether the use of cell phones affected test scores?

Cell phone and social media have been linked with bullying problems, taking videos of other students, etc.
Donna suggested we could have community conversations to see what the community would suggest.

**Cheryl McClellan recommends we add this item to the BOE agenda in September to get a direction from the Board.**

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 A.M.

The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 17, 2019 at 8:30 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Bengtson
Administrative Assistant