

POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE MINUTES
August 8, 2016

Board of Education Members Present: Jaime Barr Shelburn (Chair), Tim Hagen, Barbara Senges

Administrators Present: Jeffrey Newton (Superintendent), Amy Drowne (Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment)

Meeting Time: 4:59-5:57 PM

1. Policy and Regulation 5141.25 Students with Special Health Care Needs

Mr. Newton reported that Policy and Regulation 5141.25 Students with Special Health Care Needs was brought to the Board of Education for initial discussion, that Dr. Lobo from Yale New Haven Children's Hospital Allergy and Immunology Program has been given the policy and regulation for his review and input, the ELPS Administrators and ELTA Union representatives were emailed the policy and regulation to review, and he has confirmed with First Student that all bus drivers and substitute bus drivers are informed of all students with special health care needs, but that they do not carry epi-pens.

Policy Committee Discussion:

- The regulation needs to be reviewed closely.
- There was a question about the title and first paragraph on page 1 of the policy. Should it be revised to include a generic statement pertaining to any students with any life threatening disease? Mr. Newton will contact Shipman and Goodwin regarding the possible language to be used.
- Should the statement, "child's physician as appropriate" be included in the list of people who develop the Individual Health Plan Care (IHPC)? (Page 1, Section II, Item 2)
- Each building should have one person in charge of managing the IHPC's. Need to check with the Visiting Nurses Association if the school nurse is the appropriate person to be in charge.
- Each building should have a specific person who is in charge of training staff and can be called in an emergency if the school nurse is unavailable.
- Implementing yearly staff training through SafeSchools is under review.
- Medical Drills could be a yearly requirement. Mr. Newton will talk to the administration.
- Each classroom should have an epi-pen for emergencies.
- The IHPC must remain the guiding document and all teachers and substitute teachers must be informed of them.
- Amy Drowne will discuss current practices for the Before/After School Care Programs with the coordinator at their next meeting.
- There should be more strict control of what food is being brought into the classroom knowing that you can only raise awareness and cannot expect 100% compliance.
- When the Assistant Superintendent reviews curriculum, it is an appropriate time to discuss cultural celebrations and to limit the focus on food.
- The Policy Committee will review the Wellness Policy and compare it to this policy and regulation.

- What are we doing for students with special health care needs to help them to be empowered, advocate for themselves, and to help them educate others?

2. 5141.3 BOE Policy & Regulation: Health Examinations and Inoculations (Revision)

Revise Item 2 on page 1 of the policy and Item 3 on page 1 of the regulation to state, “The signing of this statement must be acknowledged...” This policy will be brought to the Board of Education for a first reading on August 22, 2016.

3. 5145.53 Students: Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Youth

Under the advisement of Shipman and Goodwin, discussion of this policy will be tabled at this time due to rapidly developing state and federal laws.

4. Equity and Diversity Policy and Regulation

The Policy Committee will include equity and diversity in future items to be discussed.

Public Comment:

Christine Stahl, 4 Upper Kensington Drive, East Lyme

Regarding Policy and Regulation 5141.25 Students with Special Health Care Needs, Christine Stahl informed the Policy Committee that the nurses store the epi-pens in an unlocked cabinet for easy access and that, legally, children are allowed to carry epi-pens with them in classrooms and on the bus. All staff and parents should be reminded of this. Christine also expressed concern regarding the communication in each individual building with the school nurse. Christine suggests including a photo of the child on the communication permission form. She noted that Appendix A and B which are referenced were not included and that she could not find them on the website. She also noted that the Wellness Policy does not address fresh food that is prepared at home and brought into school. Christine acknowledged that, realistically, you cannot expect a “nut free” school, but that we should strive for a “nut safe” environment. Christine suggested having a task force, involving parents, in place to monitor practices. Christine noted that her suggested comments made at the previous Board of Education meeting were not included in the current draft policy and regulation. Christine questioned how staff and parents will be kept informed if this policy and regulation is not adopted before the first day of school and is also concerned that cultural celebrations tend to focus on food being brought into school from home.

The next Policy Committee meeting will be held on August 22, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. at East Lyme High School.

Respectfully submitted by
Jaime Barr Shelburn
Policy Committee Chair