POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Liberty School Board Room
Thursday, October 7, 2021
5:00 pm

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order 5 pm**
The Policy Committee Meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by Chair Secretary Estep.

Board Members Present
Secretary Estep, Trustee Jones, Vice President McVey

Central Administration Present
Superintendent Laatsch

2. **Public Comment**
There was no public comment at this time.

3. **Discussion Items**

A. **Overview of NEOLA Updates September 2021**
Chair Secretary Estep provided the overview of the most recent Neola updates (10) that were received in early September. The process will be to go through them over the course of several policy meetings as well as also having to meet with Central Administration to determine if all should be brought forward for discussion and possible adoption.

B. **Policy 100 - Definitions (NEOLA)**
Overview Note: The definition of "Voting" has been revised to reflect the change in statute regarding allowable exceptions to "in person" voting at meetings of the Board. After December 31, 2021 only the military duty exception remains. The Board chair should only approve a request that complies with the law.
The Policy Committee accepts the revisions and this policy will move forward in the approval process.

C. **Policy 167.3 - Public Participation at Board Meetings (NEOLA)**
Overview Note: Revisions to this bylaw are in line with the recent decision of the U.S. District Court for the 6th Circuit. Some of the optional language has been deleted, so as to remove the authority of the presiding officer at board meetings where public participation is permitted to regulate speakers on the basis of comments that are "abusive," "frivolous," and/or "harassing." These

measures are intended to prevent districts from engaging in viewpoint discrimination for remarks that are oppositional in nature, perceived as hostile to the direction of the board and/or merely offensive. In addition, options (which were deemed acceptable regulations by the Court) have been added for preregistration, including prohibiting individuals from signing up to speak for others. Finally, there are options for districts who livestream meetings to determine whether or not they will facilitate public participation remotely.

The Policy Committee agreed to table this Policy to allow for more time to review.

D. Policy 3120 - Employment of Professional Staff (NEOLA)

This policy has been revised to reflect recent changes in certification/licensure statutes and regulations. Outdated "highly qualified" language has been deleted.

The Policy Committee accepts the revisions and this policy will move forward in the approval process.

E. Policy 8310 - Public Records (NEOLA)

These policies have been revised to comply with the obligation not to disclose the address of a student or an employee who provides the District with notice that they have received a participation card issued by the attorney general under the address confidentiality program act.

The Policy Committee accepts the revisions and this policy will move forward in the approval process.

Per the Board Operating Procedures the next steps will be to prepare a clean packet of policies 0100, 3120 and 8310 and share these updates with the whole Board a minimum of one week before they appear on the consent agenda for the October 26th meeting. During this review period, any board member may request that any of the submitted policy changes be moved to "Full Board Discussion" from "Consent Agenda" by consulting with the Policy Chair Estep.

Chair Secretary Estep also requested that Betty Jahnke, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, contact Neola legal to clarify policy changes/additions (not Neola) that the Board adopts that may still withstand litigation but be outside of the Neola warranty.

4. **Public Comment**

Matt Thomas, Taxpayer & Parent: Is not in agreement with the way that this Transgender Policy has been developed and particularly the lack of safeguards regarding facilities (restrooms/changing rooms).

Raelyn Davis, Parent: Spoke in disappointment as to how this policy was presented to the public. Not given enough time for the public to review and comment on and disappointment that there was not more open public discussion of the policy by the Board of Education.

5. **Next Meeting**
The next meeting of the Policy Committee will be Monday, October 18, 2021 at 5 pm.

6. **Adjournment**
The Policy Committee was adjourned at 6:10 pm by Chair Secretary Estep.

Respectfully Submitted:

Susan Estep
Board Secretary

Betty Jahnke, Recording Secretary