

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT

Policy Committee of the Trumbull Board of Education Meeting

Long Hill Administration Building
Monday, August 15, 2022, 5:30 p.m.

Special Meeting

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order/Introduction
- II. Correspondence/Public Comment
- III. Approval/Minutes – Policy Committee Meeting 6/27/2022
- IV. New Business
 - A. 4141.52 Challenging Curriculum
 - B. 5131.2 High School Parking
 - C. 5131.911 Bullying- Prevention and Intervention
 - D. 5131.912 Bullying- Safe School Climate Plan

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Long Hill Administration Building
Monday, June 27, 2022, 5:30 p.m.

Special Meeting

Minutes

- I. Call to Order/Introduction – The meeting was called to order by Mr. Gallo at 5:33 p.m.

Members Present

T. Gallo, Chair of Policy
M. Petitti, BOE Member
A. Harmon, Trumbull Community Rep.
R. Kode, student representative
J. Mastrianni, TEA representative
S. Iwanicki, Ed.D., administrative designee
M. Ward, community representative for Roy Fuchs

Members Absent

A. Squicciarro, BOE Member
P. Coppola, TAA representative
E. Diaz, parent representative
C. Perrone, parent representative
K. Lynn, parent representative
C. Wright, student representative

- II. Correspondence/Public Comment

Mr. Gallo noted that the Policy Committee received one email from the Tashua PTA regarding our policy on gifts to the district. There was a wonder regarding procedures around the policy which the group will be provided in order to move forward.

- III. Approval/Minutes – Policy Committee Meeting 5/17/2022

T. Gallo motioned to approve the minutes on 5/17/2022. M. Petitti seconded. The minutes of the last meeting were approved unanimously by the Board members in attendance.

- IV. New Business

- a. 6146/Trumbull High School Graduation Requirements –

Dr. Iwanicki reminded The Policy Committee that this was the second time we was be reviewing the Trumbull High School (THS) Graduation Requirements Policy 6146. The Committee requested the THS administration team work with their representatives to reexamine the passing of classes based solely on the examination grade as well as the practices around the Independent Project, such as the project requirements and the designated teachers that would be assessing the work from a union perspective. Mr. Guarino, THS Principal, and Ms. Ellen Spark, THS B-House Principal were on hand to report their findings. Mr. Guarino shared that stakeholders recommended that Final Grade (on Page 7) in both section 1d and 2e, should read final grade, not final examination. Our Policy Committee Student Representative, Miss Kode also agreed that final grade in both sections was a better option for students. After some discussion, the draft was changed to reflect this change.

Mrs. Spark then shared with the committee more specific information about the types of projects that students could choose for the The Independent Project or Experience (on page 8 and 9). It was clarified that a team of teachers at THS developed the requirements and understood that Advisory teachers would be grading the project, mostly on completion at the onset. It was noted that this project would not be above and beyond the assigned Block which students take with the same teacher in groups of under 20-students per class over the 4-years of their high school career. It was also brought to light that there is a lot of flexibility and options in terms of the work load at this point. The THS team had a committee with faculty and union representation to design this component. While the Independent Project of Experience will initially be more of a completion than grading in detail, it will be a component of the graduation requirements as required by the state. The advisory block already has teachers that are assigned to supervise the period. One of the committee members asked about the Supervised Agricultural Experiences (SAE). These experiences would count for those in our Agriscience program as an independent project. It was also shared that THS will be monitoring if we need more staffing in class of 23-24 and beyond, but the current committee, which included Union representation did feel the independent study could be completed during the Advisory block. Right now, this grade will be a Pass/Fail.

John Mastrianni, our Policy Committee TEA Union Representative shared that the names mentioned by Mrs. Spark are union members. Mrs. Petitti added that knowing that staff, including union representation agreed with the idea was helpful. Mr. Gallo mentioned that he hopes that Advisors will be sure that there is equity in the projects that students choose and that students are supported in completing them.

Mr. Gallo motioned to bring the policy 6146/Trumbull High School Graduation Requirements as amended during the meeting to the Board for a first reading. Marie seconded. The motion was approved unanimously by the Board members in attendance.

b. 6141.51/Advanced Courses or Programs-Eligibility Criteria for Enrollment

Dr. Iwanicki introduced the Advanced Courses or Programs-Eligibility Criteria for Enrollment policy which is being instituted as per new state law. This policy requires that enrollment in advanced courses would not be limited to test scores or one measure, and seeks to ensure equity in enrollment, particularly for those students who are “chronically underserved.”

After reading over the policy, Miss Kode asked if this policy will keep in mind students who do not want to take the course when others do, such as students who may feel pressure to take the course from their parents. Community representative, Mrs. Harmon, mentioned that if additional supports are put in place to encourage enrollment in advanced classes, such as summer academic bootcamps or afterschool tutoring, the school system would need to consider other factors such as after school transportation or summer transportation for families. It was noted that some of the practices would be considered by the schools after needs are determined related to the policy.

The language of the policy was also examined. Mrs. Spark shared that phrases that read guidance counselor should be changed to *school counselor*. Mrs. Harmon highlighted that the word “minority” within the document should also be rephrased. Dr. Iwanicki will examine the state recommendations to see what language is used and include that language.

A discussion of the policy was held. Mr. Gallo mentioned that in Wilton, it has been helpful to have heterogenous grouping in Grade 6 Mathematics and then have more differentiation in the class. Mrs. Petitti noted there is strength in this model. Mr. Guarino also noted that we have been offering a multitude of diverse options of Early College Credit Experiences (ECE) and AP courses to meet students needs. Mrs. Petitti furthered that in her experiences as a teacher, 9 out of 10 times, when you ask a student to step up, they will. She is a big believer in supporting students with this change for the opportunity. Mr. Ward asked if we had the appropriate amount of school counselors and Ms. Spark shared that we are comparable with our DIRG.

Mr. Gallo motioned to bring the Policy 6141.5/ Advanced Courses or Programs-Eligibility Criteria for Enrollment, as amended to the Board for a first reading. Marie seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Gallo motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:53pm. Mrs. Petitti seconded and the motion was unanimously agreed to.