



GLENBARD TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT #87

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POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

GLENBARD DISTRICT 87 ADMIN. CENTER

Monday, September 14, 2020

On September 14, 2020, the Policy Committee convened via Google Meet video conference. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

In attendance:

Cindy Christensen, Committee
Jennifer Jendras, Board Member
Richard Mazzolini, Committee Member
Martha Mueller, Board Member
Josh Chambers, Asst. Superintendent HR

Brady Hanson, GEA Representative
Grace Chambers, Student Liaison
Patris Haxhiaj, Student Liaison
Diana Flint, Recording Secretary

Quorum requirements were met and the meeting was able to proceed. Chambers introduced the two student liaisons who were in attendance prior to moving on with the agenda. Chambers also advised that one Glen Ellyn community member, Grace Daigel, had asked to virtually observe the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the Policy Committee meeting for August 24, 2020 were reviewed.

Action: Motion made to accept, seconded, and carried.

Public Participation

Chambers asked Daigel if she would like to contribute during public participation on any item noted on the agenda. Daigel stated she had concerns on policy 4:180. The current and proposed changes to the policy mention a Pandemic Planning Team that includes community members. This had not been done in the past and she inquired whether the team would be established in the future. Secondly, the proposed change within this policy "Suspension of In-Person Instruction; Remote and/or Blended Remote Learning Day Plan(s)" appears to give formal authority to the Superintendent for return to school plans without Board approval. She inquired if this was intended to permanently take the decision away from the Board. Daigel was advised that public participation is not typically meant for question and response, but the answers may come up in committee discussion. If not, the District would generally consider the questions posed and send a response after the meeting.

Items for Discussion:

1. *Policy 4:180 Pandemic Preparedness; Management; and Recovery* was reviewed in the Spring but there were no changes. It was originally called “Pandemic Preparedness,” and the name has been expanded. Over time and a lot of learning, several changes have been made. One of the ways the District receives changes is through its association with the Illinois Association of School Boards. IASB has a document which they publish throughout the year that relates to new laws that are passed both at the State and Federal levels, as well as findings in Illinois School Code. They take all the information and distill it down to provide districts with sample language to adopt in their policy manuals. The Policy Committee is an advisory committee that reviews and discusses the sample language before it goes to the Board. Only the Board can adopt policy. If the Policy Committee approves the suggestions and it goes on to the Board, there are a minimum of two Board meetings before it goes into effect. Any agenda item for tonight would not go to the Board until their next meeting. Typically, there are four weeks from when the committee talks about the policy changes to when the Board takes action.

This policy was updated to accommodate mandates from the State and the fact that there are various things the district may not be able to accomplish or implement due to a pandemic. Sections were inserted regarding how to handle Board meetings, pay employees, and begin a remote/blended learning plan during a pandemic. In addition, the policy name was revised. The language went from something we were planning for and probably would not happen to now we are actually living in a pandemic and it is something that could happen again. The policy is meant to guide the District.

Concern was raised on page 1 in the second paragraph that defines what a pandemic is. It was requested to remove the word “new” from the sentence. Discussion took place on a Pandemic Planning Team being officially established. The committee was advised that there was a meeting this summer with various stakeholders. It would be a great question from the Board to ask if an ad hoc committee needs to be considered and instituted. The question was raised on who the stakeholders were -- if it was considered the Policy Committee. There would be data presented at tonight's Board meeting gathered from various surveys and focus groups (students, parents, employees, etc.). It was suggested that the data be shared with the community.

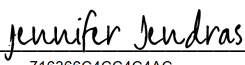
Discussion took place on who can declare a pandemic. Once the Governor declares the State is in a pandemic, the Superintendent can then close the school. However, the Superintendent does need to advise the Board of their decision. The policy does not explicitly say the Board has to vote on it, but it may be a topic of discussion when the policy goes before the Board. Corrections were requested on page 1 in the first sentence on a misspelled word “may” and to check the proper verbiage of “affect” versus “effect.”

2. *Administrative Procedure 4:180-AP1 School Action Steps for Pandemic Influenza or Other Virus/Disease* is meant to show all the different actions and actors. It was also updated to insert URL addresses to COVID-19 specific materials that may offer assistance as identified by the U.S. Department of Health, CDC, ISBE, and the U.S. Department of Labor. These were previously not in existence. Clarification was provided that we would be inserting contact information on page 6, with position titles, not names, for local agencies.
3. *Administrative Procedure 4:180-AP2 Pandemic Influenza Surveillance and Reporting* covers what surveillance and reporting are required by schools. It has been updated to make sure we can report things to the local health department, who does have the authority to weigh in on school closings when percentages of positive cases are too high. Discussion took place on pandemic flu.
4. *Policy 5:220 Substitute Teachers* was updated as a result of the extension of the 120 paid days or 600 paid hours work limitations within a school year for substitute teachers who are retired under TRS. This was originally a temporary two-year agreement due to the substitute shortage and was extended to July 1, 2021 as a result of the pandemic.

The Policy Committee meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Following the meeting, it was recommended that the agenda items be continued for further discussion due to technical difficulties at the end of the virtual session.

Signed:

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Jennifer Jendras
Policy Committee Chairman, or acting designee

11/10/2020
Date