

Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 12, 2022 @ 3:30 PM

Attendees: Denise Day, Dan Klein, Matt Bacon, Suzanne Filippone, Wendy DiFruscio, Absent: Jim Morse,  
Visitors: Rebecca Noe, Rheanna Cote, Kyra Dulmage, Zoe Selig

Denise welcomed the teachers and student that are at this meeting to discuss the review of the Transgender policy – JBAB and Rebecca for review of the Distance Education Policy IMBA.

Rheanna Cote began the discussion by stating that the three of them had met to review the version of this policy that had gone before the policy committee on April 14. In reviewing this version, we would like to suggest a change in the first sentence to add clarity to what is already written. The revised sentence reads as follows: The Oyster River Cooperative School District (ORCSD) is committed to fostering a learning environment that is safe, equitable, and free from discrimination, harassment, and bullying, as well as to assist in the educational and social inclusion and acceptance of all students and their gender expression in our schools. There was some additional discussion around the current title and thoughts of separating out Transgender or just having Gender Expression. The committee felt that this should remain as it is for now.

Additionally, it was determined that the last paragraph be moved to be the beginning of the current third paragraph and adding the word equitable after the word safe in the first sentence. There were no other changes and before leaving the meeting, Kyra thanked the committee for listening to their suggestions and appreciated the effort in moving this policy forward as a first read. Rheanna asked if this policy could also be revamped for staff as well and questioned whether there would be push back moving this forward. Denise does not remember any issues when this policy was first introduced, and Dan felt that if there was push back it would be from a small minority of people. The teachers and students left at 3:50 PM.

Policy IMBA – Distance Education – Denise asked the committee if there was any questions or additional revisions that they felt needed to be addressed before moving this for a first read. Matt clarified that when additional polices were referred to in an existing policy that parentheses be used around the name of the policy and not the letters to distinguish them from the main text. Matt also suggested that VLACS be written out in the policy. Rebecca stated that the acronym stands for Virtual Learning Academy Charter School. There were no additional revisions or discussion surrounding this policy. It is ready for a first read at the May 18<sup>th</sup> School Board meeting.

Policy JFCB – Care of School Property by Students – Suzanne explained that the Tech Integrators have met and developed a Care Program procedure that they are putting before the policy committee for review. Suzanne explained that there needs to be a policy to connect a procedure with so Policy JFCB – Care of School Property by Students is also on the agenda for review. Review of the policy called for a minor revision of changing the word “any” to “all” so that it encompasses all District property. The committee asked clarifying questions surrounding the costs associated with the different charges, how replacements or repairs were handled in the past and suggested the addition of language pertaining to normal wear and tear. Suzanne explained that the \$20 cost for device coverage was per machine for the year and that it was a flat fee. She stated that past practice was handled on a case by case for individual families. A discussion ensued about what is considered normal wear and tear of a machine, and what constitutes major damage. It was suggested that language be developed surrounding normal wear and tear.

Dan asked what is done with the money that is collected for damaged machines and asked if an annual review needs to be added to the procedure. Suzanne stated that it is a separate account through IT and that Josh keeps track of the expenses.

Denise reminded the committee that this is a procedure and is not controlled by the Board. Denise asked if we were ready to bring the policy for a first read and provide an informational only copy of this procedure to the Board as an FYI working copy.

Suzanne will contact the Tech Integrators with the Policy Committee recommendations for them to update.

There were no additional questions. Meeting ended at 4:15 PM – Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 9<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully submitted,  
Wendy L. DiFruscio, Executive Assistant