

LAMOILLE UNION DISTRICT #18 BOARD
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
GMTCC COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTER
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2009

Committee members present: D. Osborn, S. Reber, P. Ingvoldstad, K. Roberts, B. Penberthy, W. Sander.

Others: C. Hinds, B. Schaffer, J. Teegarden, D. Taylor, N. Nemeth.

The meeting started at 5:33.

J. Teegarden said he didn't have a HIPAA policy to recommend yet. He couldn't find an appropriate example from any other school. B. Penberthy brought out Waterville's HIPAA policy, and J. Teegarden read it. It says that the school will comply with the requirements of the HIPAA act for employees. The committee agreed it would be a good idea to use the same wording for our policy. B. Penberthy asked, what about students and HIPAA compliance? D. Taylor said FERPA covers that. B. Penberthy will send a copy of Waterville's policy to J. Teegarden and he will come up with a final LUSD version and send it to C. McFarlane to put in the next packet.

S. Reber said he had discovered that we passed a driver's ed policy last spring, but he never sent it to C. McFarlane to be included in the manual. B. Schaffer said it is in his copy of the manual. S. Reber will email it to D. Osborn and she will talk to C. McFarlane about updating all versions of the manual.

B. Schaffer said we currently have one policy that includes alcohol, drugs and tobacco. He proposed separating out tobacco in its own policy. He distributed the VSBA model tobacco policy. D. Osborn said in the past, board members had said they would like procedures developed at the same time as the policies they go with. D. Taylor said she will work with administrators to develop those procedures.

W. Sander said he would like to keep a very strong anti-tobacco message. He is a little worried that removing tobacco from the policy on drugs and alcohol is like saying it isn't that bad. K. Roberts said the proposed policy says we ban it. She is not sure how much stronger we can get than that. D. Taylor suggested maybe we should say that when procedures are developed, they should take into consideration the health effects of tobacco. S. Reber asked why tobacco should be in a separate policy from alcohol. B. Schaffer said because of the prescribed responses in the current policy. Other than that, he sees no advantage or disadvantage to separate policies; it is just presented that way on the VSBA site. It is just the mandatory consequences in the current policy that are a problem. P. Ingvoldstad asked, why not combine tobacco, drugs, and alcohol, and say they are all banned? K. Roberts said there are not the same statutory requirements about consequences for tobacco use.

B. Schaffer distributed the VSBA model policy on drugs and alcohol, with suggested changes or deletions marked. He suggested deleting the part about cooperative agreements to establish a Student Assistance Program. We have our own program in place, so we don't need a cooperative agreement. D. Taylor said we could just say we will provide a Student Assistance Program. K. Roberts suggested we could keep the second part in that section, saying there will be a Student Assistance Program.

B. Schaffer had thought of removing the Referral and Consent section, but he said it had been suggested that we might want to keep a statement in the policy that students don't need consent for substance abuse treatment, because of situations such as when the parents are furnishing substances. B. Penberthy said she would like to keep that in.

B. Schaffer also suggested removing the Community Involvement section, because many community members would like the school to be more tolerant of substance use. S. Reber said that section seems to be more about providing information to the community. K. Roberts said when there is a social issue, kids can be effective in educating the community. The school's role is not just to make policy, but to have discussion with students about substance abuse that they will carry home. S. Reber asked, isn't that covered in the Educational Programs section? D. Taylor said the Youth Risk Survey Report, which will be mentioned in board minutes, is one example of information we can provide to the community. We also have community partners who work with us around those issues. We can partner with them to do this. We are already doing that. K. Roberts suggested changing the language a little, to talk about partnering, not providing information ourselves. D. Osborn said the things mentioned in the first 6 sections could all be combined in one description of what we will do.

B. Schaffer said he suggested removing the Annual Report section because annual reporting is not required, though we do it.

S. Reber said one obvious difference from the current policy is that there is no statement in the VSBA model about punishment. He is not suggesting that we prescribe specific punishments, but do we want to indicate anything about punishment? There is a purpose to policy, to give some kind of direction. What will the board think if we say nothing about punishment? Maybe we could include a statement saying we will develop procedures spelling out consequences, or something like that. D. Osborn said maybe we could add something like the part in the tobacco policy saying that procedures necessary to implement the policy will be developed, and we could say that at minimum they will include adherence to VPA, laws, etc. D. Taylor said we also could develop a philosophy statement. But K. Roberts and D. Osborn said that the committee had decided that in general they prefer to leave out philosophical statements. There was general agreement that we should put something in the policy saying that there need to be consequences.

S. Reber asked, can we bring procedures as well as the policy when we bring this policy to the full board? The procedures may answer a lot of questions. B. Schaffer said there is not a burning need to adopt a new policy now. It would be okay to get it in place for the next school year. He can continue working on it. W. Sander expressed concern about the use of suspension as a consequence, and suggested a statement that suspensions will be mostly limited to safety. K. Roberts said that belongs in the discipline policy. D. Taylor said we do submit information to the state that tracks suspensions. It might be useful to present that information to the board so the board can monitor the number of suspensions. D. Osborn asked if B. Schaffer could prepare a new version of the drug and alcohol policy for the next committee meeting.

D. Osborn said she still needs to follow up with M. Frederick on the financial policy, but will wait until after the budget season.

The meeting ended at 6:30.

Minutes submitted by Donna Griffiths