

WSC POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

October 6, 2020

Meeting called to order at 10:08am

Roll Call. Ellen Grieco and Kim Reichelt Present

Public Attendees: Jeff Sklar, Sejal Srinivassan

1.0 Public Comment

Jeff Sklar: Commenting on HS School Council. There was an Open Meeting Law complaint against the HS School Council, and Jeff asked for the first set of minutes from High School School Council meetings for each year since 2014. Got an email result that there were no emails and no agendas back to 2014. So School Council at the HS has not been compliant. School Council's purpose is to be conduit for parents and community to speak and have their voice heard. There have been no minutes, no agendas, no attendees, and no announcements about meetings. According to postings on social media by past and current members, the principal is the writing school improvement plan, rather than it being built bottom-up by the School Council. When the GPA issue was brought to the School Committee, Kathie Steinberg asked the principal if she had discussed it with School Council, and she said she had. But there was no notice of that meeting, no summary or minutes of it, and no public attendees at it, so there was no parent involvement. With weighted GPA, same thing, time after time School Committee is relying on the administration being in contact with School Community, but that isn't happening. The Wayland community has no voice, policy isn't being followed. We don't necessarily need a new School Council policy, we need to enforce the one we have.

2.0 Discussion of Subcommittee roles, chair

Kim will continue as Chair and will take minutes.

3.0 Policies to Review

EBCFA — DESE issued new guidance regarding teachers in a classroom masking. Revision will strike the language we had that lets two adults opt not to wear a mask

Kim moves, Ellen seconds to approve revised policy to bring to the school committee

Ellen Grieco YES

Kim Reichelt YES

2-0 vote, policy revision approved

Policy BDFA - School Council

Ellen: Education for SC for legal requirements and brainstorm what the SC might do, which might not be legally required, but would be a good idea. Don't wish to take away from the Administration any of their decision making power, but I don't think we are well educated on what SC could do, and must do. Would like to have a half-hour at the SC and we could look at and educate the SC on this.

Kim had suggested at a School Committee meeting that we have Glenn Koocher come in and give a presentation, and reiterated that idea here. He could review what he sees School Councils doing in other districts, what works, what doesn't, help work with us on making our School Council as effective as possible.

Ellen: we need to proceed with this in a way that works for Wayland, not necessarily just what Glenn recommends

Kim suggests that we do two things: (1) that we bring Glenn Koocher in for a workshop, and (2) that we review our existing policy and revise it to bring it more in line with MASC and other districts, and include other things that would improve the value of School Committee, including communication and frequency of meetings, and codify good practices

Recess at 10:28am, and return from recess at 10:50am

Ellen moves that we authorize that we went into recess, Kim seconds.

ELLEN - YES

KIM - YES

Public Comment from Sejal Srinivassan, Covered Bridge Lane - wanted to share an observation. Was on Claypit Hill School Council for a couple of years. Haven't been on others, but have heard - they appear to be a little different between CH and HS - at CH we looked at the School Improvement Plan, the budget, conducted surveys of the students, and made recommendations around potential ways to address things that came up. That strikes me as very different than HS Council, which seems to be more policy-related matters. I don't know how they are used at the other buildings. There might be opportunities to learn between the buildings about effective use.

Kim: Our policy should require each School Council to have a website that lists their members, post meeting minutes and agendas and reports/survey results. They should meet monthly (current policy requires at least five times per year, but MASC and other towns' policies require monthly meetings) and put together a calendar at the start of year and post it. Notice of those meetings should be included in their communications.

Ellen suggested reaching out to principals to get their thoughts on what works, and offered to do that. Kim said she would review the policies in other towns for good practices. Kim noted we want to make sure our policy ensures Councils follow the law, but also that it works well for the community.

Ellen moves that we approve the minutes as listed on the agenda, February 24, 2020 and March 2, 2020.

Kim seconds.

Kim: YES

Ellen: YES

Vote 2-0 to approve minutes

Ellen moves that we adjourn, Kim seconds.

ELLEN - YES

KIM - YES

Vote 2-0 to adjourn the meeting

Meeting adjourned at 11:15am.

Corresponding documentation:

Policies BDFA, EBCFA

Minutes from February 24, 2020 and March 2, 2020