

**CITY OF PORTSMOUTH
LEGAL DEPARTMENT
MEMORANDUM**

DATE: October 9, 2014
TO: PORTSMOUTH SCHOOL BOARD
FROM: POLICY COMMITTEE
RE: OCTOBER 9, 2014 MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Leslie Stevens, Ann Walker, Ed McDonough and Kathleen Dwyer

Discussion Items:

Request from City Councilor Zelita Morgan re: Free Commercial Educational Websites

The Committee concluded at its last meeting that it was not recommending a policy regarding use or recommendations of free commercial educational websites. Councilor Morgan made additional inquiries regarding regulation of the use of these sites. The Superintendent reported that, since the last meeting, the following actions were taken:

1. The newsletter home to parents last month included a caution about potential advertising on these websites and that parents should monitor the use by their students at home.
2. Steve Zdravec checked with the technology integrators regarding in school issues and there does not appear to be a problem.
3. Direct contact was made with the Free Bowls of Rice program by two elementary principals regarding advertising by beer companies and the ads were to be removed.
4. The issue was highlighted to the principals and the administrative team.

The Committee again determined that a policy was not recommended. It observed that with the explosion of advertising on the internet, short of banning student use altogether, any such policy would be impossible to enforce. Leslie offered to reach out to Councilor Morgan on this issue.

Off Site Transportation of Students

The Committee reviewed several forms used by PHS regarding transportation of students by other students. This practice has been generally prohibited. However, this prohibition for off-site learning has presented a hardship for some students who carpool. Changes were made for students who leave from home to an off-site location or who leave after third block to an off-site location. Ed reported that Diane Canada has worked out an arrangement for training staff to drive the Rec Van so that it could be used to transport students in the hospitality program. Kathleen will work with the High School regarding other situations that may need to be addressed and any other permission forms that may be in use and report back to the Committee.

Policies Considered:

Sexual Harassment Employees/Staff

The Committee went over the changes that had been made on several versions of this policy as it travelled between various computers. Language was added regarding hostile working environments. The reporting form was also reviewed and both are ready for School Board action at second reading.

Use of Restraints

Kathleen explained that the law regarding restraint and seclusion of students changed on September 30, 2014. There are many more reporting requirements under the new law and space requirements. Seclusion may now only occur in emergency situations where there is imminent danger. The policy will be presented to the Board for first reading at the next meeting.

Behavior Management and Intervention

This is a companion policy in need of change due to the September 30th change in the law that the Committee recommends for first reading.

Next Meeting: Monday, November 3, 2014 9:00 a.m.