

**CITY OF PORTSMOUTH
LEGAL DEPARTMENT
MEMORANDUM**

DATE: JUNE 22, 2016
PORTSMOUTH SCHOOL BOARD
FROM: POLICY COMMITTEE
RE: JUNE 20, 2016 MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Leslie Stevens, Ann Walker, Steve Zadavec and Kathleen Dwyer

Others Present: Rus Wilson, Mary Lyons, George Shea and Paulette Rouse

Non-Policies Item Considered:

Kathleen explained that the school nurses have suggested changes to the Student Health and Emergency Information form. Through a grant, Spot vision screening will be made available to students in grades 1, 3 and 5. This has been added to the permission section of the form. Since the Policy Committee has reviewed the health forms in the past the nurses wanted the Committee to be aware of this change. Barbara Pamboukas will be invited to the next meeting for review of the Nursing Guidelines. The nurses have been working on the guidelines for the past several years and would like to have them approved prior to the beginning of the next school year.

Policies Considered:

Advertising in the Schools (KHB)

There was a general discussion regarding issues that arise when individuals and commercial ventures disseminate advertising materials. The Committee reviewed the policy to ensure that the Office of the Superintendent is where approval must be obtained. The policy does require approval through the Superintendent. The Committee decided to add references to individuals as covered under the policy and to change the title of the policy from Advertising in the Schools to Advertising and Promotional Activities in the Schools.

Public Solicitations in the Schools (KH)

This is a new policy considered by the Committee. This issue has arisen from time to time with groups and individuals passing out information at or near the schools and during athletic events. This policy differs from the Advertising in the Schools policy

which deals with commercial activities. The Committee recommended that this policy be considered by the School Board for first reading.

Extra-Curricular and Co-Curricular Activities (IGD)

Rus Wilson and Mary Lyons shared with the Committee issues that have arisen in the application of this policy. They explained that students who are suspended from game participation for half their seasons, (or competitions/performances) have been able to get back one game or performance upon completion of 10 hours of community service. Leslie questioned whether that was an appropriate amount of hours and asked whether it was difficult for students to complete. Rus said that no student has had difficulty in completion of 10 hours of community service. The Committee recommended no change in this requirement.

There was then a discussion about a previous practice of students getting an additional game/performance back for telling the truth, i.e. admitting to violation. Rus said that he felt that it is important to teach and reward students the value of telling the truth and that this was one way to do this. He also shared that the disciplinary committee never asks students to “rat each other out” but rather, are often asked if they know of students who have been at a party if there was anyone had not been drinking. Kathleen indicated that the Court was complimentary on this approach when she was recently before the court on the application of this policy. Mary shared that it is difficult for the disciplinary committee to determine who is telling the truth and who isn't. Often the only thing the committee can really go by are police reports.

Mary provided the Committee with a copy of the Restorative Contract Path used by the Student Council. The Committee had a discussion regarding how to allow students to reduce the suspensions by one game/performance via some educational component. Steve suggested connecting students to session(s) with the Student Counselling Service. It would have the dual benefit of requiring students to do something affirmative to earn back a game/performance while also connecting them to a valuable resource within the school. The Committee all felt that this was a great idea worth exploring. It was also suggested that Marci conduct pre-season short presentations prior to each sports season as a preventive measure. Mary will speak with Marci about implementing both suggestions.

The Committee also had questions regarding whether or not some students waive their hearing before the disciplinary committee. Rus indicated that many students elect to receive the penalty and do not go before the committee. Kathleen asked what kind of records are kept and Rus indicated that there is a log kept of all students that are subject to discipline each school year and the outcome.

Rus brought up the issue of the 50% and 75% ineligibility and how it can have an unequal impact on students, depending on what the sport of activity is. He recommended that the reduction in the penalty be by percentage v. exact counts. Most sports have either a 8 or 16 game schedule and suspensions start at 4 or 8 games.

Lastly, there was a discussion regarding the composition of the committee, and quorum issues that recently arose. Rus and Mary indicated that this issue has been remedied by having several alternates available should the designated coach or advisor have a conflict or be unavailable.

There was also a discussion regarding students who attend under-aged drinking parties and the problem of holding students to the policy if they haven't taken a breathalyzer. The Committee discussed taking the approach of making a presumption that a student has been drinking unless a breathalyzer proves otherwise and/or making a student subject to consequences if they are at a party without an adult present.

Kathleen will make revisions to this policy and send to the Committee for review prior to putting it on the School Board agenda.

Extended Learning Opportunities (IHBH)

George and Mary explained that there have been many changes to extended learning opportunities in the last several years and it is anticipated that this policy will need to be reviewed every several years. Mary explained that more and more students are taking advantage of extended learning opportunities and that the High School has instituted a Blended Learning Lab. The current policy excludes extended learning credits from inclusion in the student's GPA and class rank calculation. Given the increase in students accessing these opportunities, George and Mary recommended making changes to this policy with respect to these issues. George will make the revisions to this policy for review at the next meeting of the Policy Committee.

Recommended Board Actions:

First Reading	Public Solicitations in the Schools (KH)
Revise and Reapprove	Advertising in the Schools (KHB) Extra-Curricular and Co-Curricular Activities (IGD)

Policies for Review at Next Meeting:

School Visits and Loitering (KI)
Participation in Community Life (KC)
Grants, Gifts and Bequests (KCD)
Publications, Radio and Television (KJ)
Extended Learning Opportunities (IHBH)
Drug and Alcohol Use By Students (JICH)

Next Meeting: Wednesday, July 20, 2016

