

**CITY OF PORTSMOUTH
LEGAL DEPARTMENT
MEMORANDUM**

DATE: SEPTEMBER 14, 2017
TO: PORTSMOUTH SCHOOL BOARD
FROM: POLICY COMMITTEE
RE: SEPTEMBER 14, 2017 MEETING MINUTES

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

Others Present: Kristin Jeffrey and Paulette Rouse

Non Policy Items Discussed:

MOU with Portsmouth Police

Steve reported that the School Department is waiting for signed copy of the MOU from the Police Department.

Information Sharing Protocol

Kathleen will work on an updated draft for the Committee to consider at an upcoming meeting.

Student Travel

This subject had come up at last month's meeting during a discussion regarding opportunity gaps. Kathleen reported that she had consulted with her daughter who works for Education First in Boston, a large travel education company. Her territory is in Louisiana, among some of the poorest communities in the country. Despite the economic challenges, she said that the value of travel is common to all parents and that the timing and manner in which information is shared with them is very important. For instance, parent meetings need to be held at times when working (and often single parents) can attend.

She also had commented that a school district's overall travel program should be integrated so that there isn't competition within the school for travelers. Incoming

freshman families should be made aware of the travel opportunities that will be available throughout high school. This allows families to plan and budget for such trips. Often, where money is an issue, some students do not bring home information on travel opportunities, assuming that there isn't a way to afford it.

This led to a general discussion regarding taking inventory of the various travel opportunities offered to students at the high school. There was also discussion regarding middle school trips which have limited capacity or on a first come, first served basis. This is a disadvantage to those families who need to determine means to pay for the trip. There was discussion regarding changing travel to a lottery system or creating a way to fund trips so that all students could be included.

Discussion regarding development of a travel education policy to address equity and opportunity led to a broader discussion regarding an equity policy. There was also discussion regarding tightening up the field trip and travel procedures to examine items such as insurance.

The Committee will continue to work toward travel policies which are more inclusive and remove economic barriers through scholarship funding and providing families' access to those opportunities.

Texting

Texting was discussed in context of the broader topic of social media. Kathleen reported that she had checked with Human Resources regarding City policy. Currently, there is no policy, though public works is considering the need for a policy. Kathleen provided the Committee with an article on electronic media prepared by the Texas School Board Association. The Committee will continue to work on this issue; no policy is recommended at this time.

Policies Discussed:

Fundraising (JJE)

The Administration and Steve Bartlett have reviewed this policy and made some wording changes around the reporting procedures for the Business Office. Paulette will make the revisions and Policy JJE will be presented to the Board for a single reading.

Staff Health (GBGA)

As a follow up to last month's review of New Hampshire law requiring physicals, Kathleen checked with Jean Frisbee regarding whether or not completing of the physical was an issue for new professional staff. Jean indicated that it is generally not an issue. There was also discussion regarding offering pre-employment physicals

during a block of time in a manner similar to the sports physicals offered to student athletes, for those who have yet to secure insurance coverage. Jean had also indicated that the emergence of medical clinics provides a way to obtain physicals fairly quickly.

As the School Department currently does not have a policy regarding physicals, it was decided to recommend adoption of one which will be sent to first reading in October.

Animals in the Classroom (IMG)

Steve reported that this issues comes up every now and then, particularly around dogs visiting classrooms. The Committee felt that, given the number of children with pet allergies, among other concerns, that no changes are needed to this policy.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 17, 2017, 9:00 a.m. at Central Office