

Belmont School Committee Policy & Procedure Subcommittee Minutes
May 16, 2016
School Administration Building Conference Room

In attendance: John Phelan, Superintendent
Mary Pederson, Director of Human Resources
Ben DeLorio
Leon Dyer
Susan Burgess-Cox
Andrea Prestwich
Elyse Shuster

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 am

School Calendar

Superintendent Phelan recounted some of the discussions from the calendar subgroup around policy 6014 – the impact of any changes to the calendar are extensive and affect teaching practices, testing, homework, etc. Noted that it would be best to settle the related changes before the school year begins next fall, both in terms of policy and operationally/procedurally.

Mary Pederson reviewed the changes proposed by the calendar subgroup for policies 6011 and 6014 to bring them in line with the School Committee vote removing recognition of religious holidays in the school calendar.

Mary Pederson agreed to discuss the status of the Naming Rights Advisory Committee with Superintendent Phelan at their next meeting to see where it stands. This topic needs to be discussed with the Board of Selectmen and Town Administrator, David Kale.

Teachers Ben DeLorio and Leon Dyer explained their rationale for removing language about “no homework or testing” on religious holidays. They feel it is important that teachers not stop teaching and learning on any given school day.

Regarding policy 6011 – language about scheduling will be removed since the current language references religious holidays.

Discussion around including a list of holidays to the back of the school calendar so that teachers and families are aware of the various observances.

The School Committee will have two opportunities to read and review the changes in the policy and will vote at the third meeting.

Discussion about how the new policies will be operationalized and communicated with parents and students.

Discussion about Advertising and Sponsorship policies and guidelines

Mary Pederson reported that Counsel had reviewed the policy that we had drafted over the summer and felt that it was ready to be brought to the School Committee.

Naming Rights policy to be discussed in cooperation with Town at future date.

On a motion offered by Susan Burgess-Cox and seconded by Elyse Shuster, it was

VOTED unanimously to approve the minutes of May 3, 2016

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by



Elyse Shuster, Secretary