

MINUTES OF THE POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE

March 6, 2017

Superintendent's Conference Room, ARMS

IN ATTENDANCE:

Katherine Appy, Chair

Jennifer Page, Public

Phoebe Hazzard

Debbie Westmoreland

Trevor Baptiste

Stephen Sullivan

Ms. Appy called the meeting to order at 5:19 p.m. Ms. Hazzard then moved to approve the minutes of December 21, 2016 as presented. Ms. Baptiste seconded and the motion was approved with Mr. Sullivan abstaining. Discussion turned to development of an Immigration policy for the protection of undocumented students in the districts. Ms. Appy noted that the subcommittee has been tasked with developing such a policy based on the resolution *Rights of Undocumented Students and Protocols for ICE Access to Students*, which has been passed by all three school committees. Mr. Baptiste suggested beginning the process by identifying what the intention of the policy will be. After discussion, it was agreed that the two goals of the policy will be:

1. To protect staff working on the front lines if ICE is seeking access to students, while also protecting students and families on school property, and
2. To assist students/families, to the extent possible, in accessing help in defending themselves if ICE is seeking access to them.

Extensive discussion followed regarding the wording of the policy. It was agreed that the numbered points from one through five on the resolution will be used as the basis for the draft policy, with the following edits:

- Points four and five will be combined and edited to read "Amherst, Pelham and Amherst-Pelham Regional Schools staff will not refer students or families to ICE, or employees of any agency working as immigration agents, if they inadvertently or intentionally disclose their immigration status. Pursuant to FERPA, Amherst, Pelham and Amherst-Pelham Regional Schools staff shall not disclose, without parental consent, the immigration status of any student.
- An additional point will be added stating "If a representative of ICE, or any agency acting as immigration agents, contacts the schools or District offices regarding any individual student(s), school personnel shall immediately contact the student(s)' parent/guardian and share contact information for appropriate support groups or agencies.

It was agreed that Ms. Appy will contact district counsel to clarify whether students can be interrogated before a parent or guardian is notified; whether a district staff member may refuse entry to the schools for any type of warrant other than criminal warrants; and, finally, whether a staff member can legally notify a family that ICE or another immigration agent has contacted the district seeking information about them. Ms. Westmoreland will develop the draft policy for distribution to the subcommittee prior to the next meeting.

Discussion turned to policy JQA: Food Service Collections. Since the Policy Subcommittee has not yet received any additional feedback on the Policy from the School Equity Task Force (SETF), it was agreed that Ms. Appy will reach out to SETF Chair Vira Douangmany Cage. She will notify Ms. Cage that the subcommittee plans to return the policy to the full Regional School Committee for a vote at the March 28 meeting. The next Policy Subcommittee meeting has been set for 5:15 p.m. on Monday, March 20. Mr. Baptiste moved to adjourn at 6:15 p.m. Ms. Hazzard seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debbie Westmoreland