

February 13, 2024

The Policy Committee of Community High School District 99 met on Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at the Administrative Service Center. The meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m.

Present: Board President Don Renner and Board Member Christopher Espinoza. Also present were Hank Thiele, Superintendent; Rob Lang, Assistant Superintendent for Staff Services; Jeff Bergholtz, Director of Human Resources; and Juli Gniadek, Secretary.

There were no visitors.

The minutes of the September 5, 2023 meeting were reviewed and approved.

- I. The following policies had revisions recommended by PRESS in its Update Memo. Revisions were in response to legislation, new public acts, and feedback. The Committee reviewed the PRESS recommendations and recommended adopting them, as appropriate.
 - 2.20, Powers and Duties of the School Board; Indemnification
 - 2.120, Board Member Development
 - 2.200, Types of School Board Meetings
 - 2.220, School Board Meeting Procedure
 - 4.10, Fiscal and Business Management
 - 4.30, Revenue and Investments
 - 4.60, Purchases and Contracts
 - 4.160, Environmental Quality of Buildings and Grounds
 - 5.210, Resignations
 - 5.220, Guest Teachers
 - 5.250, Leaves of Absence – Dr. Thiele emphasized the change in the policy regarding paid leave for COVID.
 - 6.15, School Accountability
 - 6.50, School Wellness
 - 6.60, Curriculum Content – Dr. Thiele stated Gina Ziccardi had reviewed the recommended changes to the policy.
 - 6.230, Library Media Program – Dr. Thiele stated the recommended changes to this policy were in response to the recent challenges to school library books that were politically motivated.
 - 7.60, Residence – The Committee discussed footnote #10, which states the Board is able to waive nonresident tuition for children of staff members who live outside the District. Dr. Thiele stated this was put in place for Districts that have a difficult time recruiting teachers. He advised the Committee that both union presidents had been made aware of this provision in the policy and had shared the information with their membership.

Since recruitment is not an issue for District 99, the consensus of the Committee was not to offer this option to the staff.

- 7.160, Student Appearance – Dr. Thiele stated the Principals and Activity Directors are working on guidelines for implementing this policy for graduation this year as ISBE’s guidance will not be out until July 1.
- 7.190, Student Behavior – Dr. Thiele stated that, in the past if a staff member was the victim of a battery, for example, while breaking up a fight, there was no requirement for the employee to report the battery. The changes to the policy require that the battery be reported to the police.
- 7.270, Administering Medicines to Students – Dr. Thiele stated the Administration did not recommend including the optional paragraphs on undesignated oxygen tanks in the policy due to the safety concerns of storing oxygen tanks on site.
- 7.290, Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention
- 8.30, Visitors to and Conduct on School Property – Dr. Thiel explained the recommended changes to the policy more accurately reflect the letter of the law – an individual who is barred from attending athletic or extracurricular events must be offered a hearing before the Board; no hearing must be offered to deny someone attendance at meetings.

These policies will be brought forward for First Reading on February 26, 2024.

II. The following D99 policies and PRESS policies were not aligned. The Committee recommended adopting the PRESS policy in its entirety.

- 4.40, Incurring Debt – Dr. Thiele stated Jeree Ethridge, CSBO, recommends replacing the District 99 policy with the PRESS policy.
- 6.270, Counseling and Student Support Services Program – Dr. Thiele stated the PRESS policy contains what is required by law.
- 7.345, Use of Educational Technologies; Student Data Privacy and Security – Dr. Thiele explained the District attorneys and Rod Russeau, former Director of Technology and Information Services for the District, drafted the District 99 policy to obtain cybersecurity insurance; at the time PRESS did not have a policy.

These policies will be brought forward for First Reading on February 26, 2024.

III. The following policies had not been updated in five or more years. In most cases, the recommended changes are to align District 99 policies more closely with PRESS.

- 2.50, Board Member Term of Office
- 2.150, Committees
- 6.65, Student Social and Emotional Development
- 6.210, Instructional Materials

- 7.325, Student Fundraising Activities – The Committee recommended removing the reference to the NSLP since District 99 no longer participates in the NSLP.
- 7.330, Student Use of Buildings - Equal Access
- 8.25, Advertising and Distributing Materials in Schools Provided by Non-School Related Entities

These policies will be brought forward for First Reading on February 26, 2024.

IV. Reception of Visitors – Public Comment

There were no public comments.

VII. The date of the next meeting has not been determined.

VIII. The meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.