

Present: Court Booth, Yuval Erlich, Laurie Hunter, David Model, Dorothy Presser (MASC)

1. Mr. Booth called the meeting to order at 9:34 AM. He welcomed those community members present and asked them to introduce themselves: Louisa Paushter and Shari Barzun, Co-Chairs of the Concord Carlisle Human Rights Council.
2. A motion was made by Mr. Erlich, seconded by Mr. Booth, to approve the minutes from 12/19/19. Mr. Booth noted a date change. Dr. Hunter clarified that she needed to research the laws around the number of meetings needed regarding File: BDFA-E-3. The motion was unanimously approved, subject to the changes.
3. Policies Reviewed:

File: BDFA-E-3 – Conduct of School Council Business - Dr. Hunter stated that it has been challenging for teachers to attend after school meetings, noting that holding meetings during the school day helps with regular attendance. A motion was made by Mr. Erlich, seconded by Mr. Model, to remove the limitation of “after school hours” from the text. The motion was unanimously approved. Changes will be made and the policy will be brought to the School Committee for a first reading.

Civil Rights/Hate Speech – Mr. Erlich shared a Civil Rights/Hate Speech policy from another district. Mr. Presser noted that MASC does not have a separate civil rights/hate speech policy because it is covered under other policies, such as bullying. The Subcommittee had a lengthy discussion around many aspects of the policy, including: assigning an administrator at each site, training, and reporting. The Subcommittee agreed that Dr. Hunter would seek legal opinion and consult further with Ms. Presser to make an informed decision on the policy.

Public Comments:

Ms. Paushter stated that a lot of things are already in place, and recommended comparing what currently exists and what needs to be added.

Ms. Barzun stated that transparency in hearing what is going on is important and Dr. Hunter stated that they have tried to shift this, but there are legal limitations to consider.

Mr. Erlich stated that the only differences would be that Dr. Hunter designates a specific person as administrator at each building (who would be trained) and zero tolerance of reporting. Ms. Presser noted that they need to be careful with duplicative policies. The Subcommittee agreed that Dr. Hunter would contact legal counsel, consult with Ms. Presser, and the policy would be discussed further at the next meeting.

Gender Identity – Ms. Presser stated that this is not currently an MASC policy. Mr. Erlich shared Natick’s gender identity policy, with text adjusted for CPS/CCRSD. A motion was made by Mr. Erlich, seconded by Mr. Model, to approve the gender identity policy, as presented. Ms. Presser asked if there was anything in this policy that would raise issues if students did not have parental support, to make sure a policy is enforceable if created. Mr. Erlich stated that every policy is first governed by state law.

Public Comment:

Cynthia Rainey, CSC/CCSC. Ms. Rainey stated that Acton Boxboro’s policy reads that parents don’t need to be involved if the student doesn’t desire that, noting that this is also sprinkled in DESE.

Dr. Hunter stated that she needs to review the law, noting that there is a nuance that needs to be sorted out. Mr. Erlich withdrew his motion. The policy will be reviewed again at the next meeting.

File: JICFB – Bullying Prevention – Mr. Erlich shared 2 versions of updates to the cyberbullying language used in the current policy. A motion was made by Mr. Erlich, seconded by Mr. Model, to: replace the 3 paragraphs on “cyber-bullying” on page 1 with the following text: “*Cyberbullying is bullying through the use of technology or*

electronic devices such as telephones, cell phones, photographs, computers, and the Internet. It includes, but is not limited to, email, SMS (Short Message Service) also known as text messages, Instant Messaging, various Internet postings, social media and online gaming. Cyberbullying shall also include the creation of a web page or blog in which the creator assumes the identity of another person; or the knowing impersonation of another person. Cyberbullying shall also include the distribution by electronic means of a communication to more than one person or the posting of material on an electronic medium that may be accessed by one or more persons, if the distribution or posting creates any of the conditions of bullying.”; change “him/herself” to “themselves/their” within the policy; add cross reference File: JIC (Student Discipline); and, change “parents” to “parents/guardians”. The motion was unanimously approved and the policy will be brought to the School Committee for a first reading.

File: JICF – Gang Activity/Secret Societies – The Subcommittee reviewed the draft language of “For purposes of this policy, gang is defined as any group, secret society, organization or association that advocates tobacco, vaping, alcohol, drug use, violence, or intimidation on the basis of ethnicity, gender identity, religious and/or political beliefs, or disruptive or illegal behavior.” to replace sentence 2 in the current policy. Mr. Model suggested changing the construct of the sentence. A motion was made by Mr. Model, seconded by Mr. Erlich, to add the definition to the current policy and replace the 2nd sentence with the following: “For purposes of this policy, gang is defined as any group, secret society, organization or association that advocates tobacco, vaping, alcohol, drug use, violence, or disruptive or illegal behavior, and/or intimidation on the basis of ethnicity, gender identity, religious and/or political beliefs.” The motion was unanimously approved and the policy will be brought to the School Committee for a first reading.

File: ECAF – Security Cameras in School – A motion was made by Mr. Erlich, seconded by Mr. Booth, to add File: ECAF to the policy manual, as existing in MASC dated August 2015. After discussion, the Subcommittee agreed on removing the word “All” in the 5th paragraph regarding storage of recordings. Mr. Erlich amended his motion to remove the word “all” from the 5th paragraph to read “Video recordings will be stored....” Mr. Model seconded the amended motion, also adding cross reference File: ECA (Building and Grounds Security). The amended motion was unanimously approved and the policy will be brought to the School Committee for a first reading.

File: JIB – Student Involvement in Decision Making – Mr. Erlich suggested keeping the current policy, because it aligned with the current MASC policy. A motion was made by Mr. Erlich, seconded by Mr. Model, to add “Source: MASC”. The motion was unanimously approved and the policy will be brought to the School Committee for a first reading.

File: JIC – Student Discipline – Dr. Hunter noted that this policy is highly regulated and Ms. Presser stated that much of what’s in the policy is there because the state requires it. Mr. Erlich recommended adopting the MASC policy, noting the differences between MASC’s policy and the CPS/CCRS D current policy. He noted a difference between policies under the “Expulsion” section regarding suspensions. A motion was made by Mr. Erlich, seconded by Mr. Model, to replace the existing policy with File: JIC of MASC dated December 2014, and add the existing sentence under Expulsion stating “Any student alleged to have committed one of these acts shall be afforded the same due process rights as for a long term suspension.”, not to include “Source MASC”. The motion was unanimously approved and the policy will be brought to the School Committee for a first reading.

File: JIE – Pregnant Students – A motion was made by Mr. Erlich, seconded by Mr. Model, to adopt MASC’s policy dated 2009. The motion was unanimously approved and the policy will be brought to the School Committee for a first reading.

File: JICA – Student Dress Code – A motion was made by Mr. Erlich, seconded by Mr. Model, to adopt MASC’s policy. The motion was unanimously approved and the policy will be brought to the School Committee for a first reading.

4. A motion was made by Mr. Erlich, seconded by Mr. Model, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was unanimously approved and the meeting adjourned at 11:25 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Erin Higgins
Approved: 2.27.20