

Present: Laurie Hunter, Dorothy Presser (MASC), Alexa Anderson, Fatima Mezdad, Eva Mostoufi

1. Dr. Hunter called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. Roll call attendance was taken: Anderson, present; Mezdad, present; Mostoufi, present. Dr. Hunter introduced Dorothy Presser, from MASC.
2. Vote to Appoint Policy Subcommittee Chair. Ms. Anderson nominated Ms. Mezdad as Chair and Ms. Mostoufi seconded the nomination. All were in favor by roll call: Anderson, aye; Mezdad, aye; Mostoufi, aye.
3. Vote to Approve Minutes. A motion was made by Ms. Mezdad, seconded by Ms. Anderson, to approve the meeting minutes of 8.13.20. The motion passed by roll call: Anderson, aye; Mezdad, aye; Mostoufi, aye.
4. Policies to be Reviewed: Dr. Hunter summarized the policies for review, stating that she received feedback from legal counsel on the highly regulated Student Discipline and Bullying Prevention policies. Regarding the Public Complaints policy, Dr. Hunter stated that this policy connects to the Strategic Plan. She stated that the “J” policies return to the sequential policy review. Ms. Presser noted that the policies are the “what and why” and the procedures of each district implement the policies.
 - File JIC – Student Discipline
 - File JICFB – Bullying Prevention
 - File KEB – Public Complaints about the Curriculum or Instructional Materials
 - File JFABB – Admission of Exchange Students
 - File JIH – Searches and Interrogations
 - File JII – Student Complaints and Grievances
 - File JJ – Co-Curricular and Extracurricular Activities
 - File JJ-E – Co-Curricular and Extracurricular Activities

File: JIC – Student Discipline. Dr. Hunter stated that she had shared what the previous Policy Subcommittee had suggested adding to this policy with district attorneys, noting that the attorneys felt that too much was added. She stated that the attorneys recommended leaving the policy alone, noting that this policy is highly regulated.

File: JICFB – Bullying Prevention. Dr. Hunter stated that this policy is also highly regulated, noting that this policy was also recently reviewed by the district attorneys. She stated that the previous Policy Subcommittee had suggested an addition to the policy and the attorney recommended using the wording from the MA Cyberbullying law. After discussion, the Policy Subcommittee agreed to use the wording from the MA Cyberbullying law. A motion was made by Ms. Mezdad, seconded by Ms. Anderson, to approve File: JICFB – Bullying Prevention. The motion passed by roll call: Anderson, aye; Mezdad, aye; Mostoufi, aye and the policy will be brought to the Joint SC for a first read.

A motion was made by Ms. Mezdad, to approve File: JIC – Student Discipline. The motion passed by roll call: Anderson, aye; Mezdad, aye; Mostoufi, aye and the policy will be brought to the Joint SC for a first read.

File: KEC – Public Complaints about the Curriculum or Instructional Materials. Ms. Presser noted that this policy is similar to IJ-R – Reconsideration of Instructional Resources in the MASC reference manual. Dr. Hunter stated that this policy was included on the list of review because an issue recently came up at CMS in which some parents were questioning a 7th grade book choice, noting that Policy KEC states that another option would be provided. Dr. Hunter stated that she consulted with the district’s attorney, who stated that if a book is part of the curriculum, families could not opt out. She noted the challenge for teachers of having additional texts included in instruction and discussion. Ms. Mezdad noted the importance of community feedback. Dr. Hunter stated that Ms. Herbert, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, is working on putting some procedural pieces in place that would proactively review book choices. Ms. Presser noted the district’s policy File: IJJ – Adoption and Selection of Textbooks, noting that MASC does not have this policy, suggesting this be looked at in conjunction with IJ-R/KEB.

Ms. Presser noted that other district's policies could be accessed for review on the MASC website.

5. A motion was made by Ms. Mezdad, seconded by Ms. Anderson, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved by roll call: Anderson, aye; Mezdad, aye; Mostoufi, aye, and the meeting adjourned at 11:29 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Erin Higgins

Approved: 1.20.21