Educational Policy Committee

Minutes
January 4, 2022
7:30 - 8:30pm
The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus

Members: Gwen Doak, **Wayne Kinney,** Mark Prentiss, Dorothy "Dee" Robinson, Debbie Smith
Members Absent: Gwen Doak
Staff: Chris Elkington, Laura Columbia
Other Staff Present: Doug Hodum

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1. Called meeting to order at 7:46 pm

2. Review approved minutes from the last meeting - Kinney
   a. No comments or discussion.

3. Strategic Planning Quick Update - Kinney
   a. We are meeting on January 13th via Zoom to review data. The survey collection is complete.
   b. The next step will be our consultant reviewing the data and will be discussed.
   c. A community meeting will be held to review the results, and a determination will be made regarding if we have more information to gather or if we are ready to start with a new mission or vision statement for the district.

4. Policy requests - Elkington
   a. Draft JLC: Wellness Policy
      i. Current JLC: Wellness Policy
      ii. Minor edits include sections in the nutrition section regarding healthy foods.
      iii. The request was made to underline new language, and strikethrough old language.
      iv. Will be brought back to committee.
   b. New:
      i. Draft GBIA: Staff Participation in Political Activities

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        1. Please review and bring it back to discuss at the next meeting.
        2. Concerns around staff members influencing students one way or the other.
        3. Ensure that cross-referenced policies are also checked.
    ii. Draft IMB: Teaching About Controversial/Sensitive Issues
        1. Will look at cross-reference needs also.

5. High School Textbook Discussion - Columbia
   a. *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, Rebecca Skloot
   b. The conversation was held regarding approving textbooks and the process of going before the school board.
   c. Deb motioned that we move forward with the book, and Dee Robinson seconded. Committee moved forward with the textbook unanimously.

6. RSU 9 Immunization Update - Columbia
   a. Final hurdles
   b. How we work with families
      i. Families have been contacted via phone calls, emails, and letters. Families need to submit proof/evidence of vaccination plans through their primary care physician.
   c. RSU 9's Final #s
      i. MBMS: 4
      ii. MBC: 3
         1. We went from 57 in September to 7 now. We do not want anyone to miss school, but this has been debated and moved back three or four times at the state level with two referendum recalls which were heavily defeated each time.

7. Grades 6-12 Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Planning - Columbia/Elkington
   a. Draft Plan
      i. Will be having a team that completes the audit, looks at structures we have or structures that we need to have to support our students.
   b. Work with Great Schools Partnership (GSP)
   c. Funding
      i. Will be from ESSER II, a project related to social work.

8. Apportionment Review - Kinney

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    a. [Draft letter](#) to Maine DOE for further committee review before moving to the full board

    b. [Information on apportionment](#) distributed at Dec. meeting

        i. Various methods of voting were discussed.

        ii. Based on the number of students in the district.

        iii. This committee supports keeping it the same and sending the proposal to the board, with minor adjustments.

        iv. Wayne Kinney will share the two documents to the full board for review, with the recommendation from the committee, and will be discussed at the second board meeting in January.

9. Future Agenda Items - Kinney

    a. Draft [GBIA](#): Staff Participation in Political Activities

    b. Policy JLC Wellness with edits.

    c. Update on School Board Self-Evaluation Tool - Kinney

    d. BARR Review & Update - Poulin

    e. NARCAN Review - Columbia & Brann

    f. 2021-2022 Remote Learning Update & Future Plans - Columbia

    g. RSU 9 Certification Handbook - Columbia (March)

    h. Grant Review, Approval Process, and Admin Procedures

    i. State Assessment/Test Data Review

    j. Textbook Review Policy

    k. 2021-2022 Policy Review Plan

        i. Cross-reference quick review