

Educational Policy Committee

Minutes

March 1, 2022

7:00 - 8:00pm

The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus

Members: Gwen Doak, **Wayne Kinney**, Mark Prentiss, Dorothy “Dee” Robinson, Debbie Smith

Members Absent:

Staff: Chris Elkington, Laura Columbia, Matt Brann, Monique Poulin, Greg Henderson

Other Staff Present: Doug Hodum

Agenda items carried forward from Feb. 1, 2022 - meeting was cancelled

1. Called meeting to order at 7:09 - Kinney
2. Review [approved minutes](#) (1/4/22) from the last meeting - Kinney
 - a. No comment.
3. BARR Review & Update - Poulin/Henderson
 - a. Video - [The BARR Model: How it Works](#) (recommend you watch prior to the meeting)
 - i. A grant was submitted in previous years for RSU 9 to be a part of the BARR (Building Assets, Reducing Risks) program.
 - ii. Greg Henderson shared a summary slideshow of how the program works and the success 9th graders are having with the lowest suspension and failure rates at MBHS.
 - iii. Questions were heard regarding the type of students serviced, the partnership with the family, as well as any compensation for teachers involved in the grant. Staff members involved have a stipend for the year from the grant. A request for district funding will be seen in this year’s budget process as the original grant will end this year..
4. Narcan Review - Columbia/Brann
 - a. Previous steps
 - b. [RSU 9 Policies/Procedures](#)
 - c. Healthy Community Coalition - Training

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- d. Replenish Supply-all supplies will be replenished after the March 18th training provided by Health Community Coalition.
- e. Article of interest -
<https://www.sunjournal.com/2022/01/17/fatal-fentanyl-overdose-of-connecticut-13-year-old-brings-calls-for-naloxone-in-schools/>
- f. The next steps include reviewing the policy at the next committee meeting.

Director of Curriculum Columbia and SRO Brann reviewed the above and answered questions.

5. Policy requests - Elkington

- a. Input from RSU 9 Union on Policies - Kinney
 - i. A discussion was heard regarding including the association at the table when policies were discussed, so they could ask questions, give feedback, but not vote. This was agreed to.
- b. Revisions
 - i. Draft [JLC](#): Wellness Policy
 - 1. Complete rewrite
 - a. Unable to complete the regular procedures of underlining and bolding, as this is a complete rewrite.
 - 2. Current [JLC](#): Wellness Policy
 - 3. Questions around health and nutrition information for students. Foodservice regulations need to be clearly identified, such as expectations around food standards, and nutritional promotion.
 - 4. Educational Policy Committee supports the policy going before the Board.
 - ii. Draft [JJJ](#): Instructional and Library-Media Materials Selection
 - 1. The Educational Policy Committee supports this policy going before the Board.
- c. New
 - i. Draft [GBIA](#): Staff Participation in Political Activities
 - 1. [Political Speech FAQs](#)
 - 2. Feedback from the Union shared the teacher's unique role in students' lives, and having students think through critical topics, but that skewing the conversation is not a teacher's responsibility or duty. The proposed policy does not bind our teaching.

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3. The Educational Policy Committee will review this policy one more time at the next meeting.
 - ii. Draft [IMB](#): Teaching About Controversial/Sensitive Issues
 1. Questions on defining “what is” controversial, and how to properly address opposing sides. Adding language or qualifier regarding defining a controversial topic is needed.
 2. Policy IMB will be reviewed at the next Educational Policy Committee.
6. Elect a new chair - Kinney

Carol Coles nominated Dee Robinson as chair, and thanked Wayne for his work. Nomination was seconded by Debbie Smith. All members present voted in support. Dee Robinson accepted.
7. Future Agenda Items - TBD
 - a. Strategic Planning Quick Update - Kinney
 - b. 2021-2022 Remote Learning Update & Future Plans - Columbia
 - c. April
 - i. RSU 9 Certification Handbook - Columbia
 - ii. Update on School Board Self-Evaluation Tool
 - d. May
 - i. Grant Review, Approval Process, and Admin Procedures
 - e. June
 - i. State Assessment/Test Data Review
 - ii. 2022-2023 Policy Review Plan
 1. Cross-reference quick review