

Wake County Board of Education Policy Committee



May 29, 2012

1:00pm

Board Conference Room, Crossroads I

Jim Martin, Committee Chair
Debra Goldman, Vice Chair

PURPOSE: To address policy issues.

OUTCOMES: By the end of the meeting, Committee Members will have:

- Approval of the April 18, 2012 Policy Committee Meeting Minutes
- Review Dual Enrollment Policy 5534
- Discuss Student Assignment for Extended Family Professional Leave
- Review Grading System Policy 5520

TOPIC	WHO	TIME
Welcome Introduction Desired Outcomes	Chair Martin	1:08
<p>Board of Education Present: Kevin Hill, Jim Martin, Debra Goldman, Christine Kushner, John Tedesco</p> <p>Staff Present: Anthony Tata, Judy Pepler, Cathy Moore, Sylvia Wilkins, Ruth Steidinger, John Williams, Laura Evans, Karen Hamilton, Crystal Reardon, David Wehbie</p> <p>Board of Education Attorney Present: Ann Majestic</p> <p>The Dual Enrollment Policy finalization, Student Assignment, and Grading System Policies discussion was put on hold and the committee agreed to have a higher level discussion about the policies. The committee decided to look at the language changes in the transportation policies and this item was inserted after the Student Assignment Policy discussion and before the Grading Policy discussion.</p>		
Approval of the April 18, 2012 Policy Committee Meeting Minutes	All	1:11
<p>Ms. Kushner made a motion for the approval of the April 18 Policy Committee Meeting Minutes. The committee voted in favor of approving the April 18, 2012 Policy Committee minutes.</p>		

Dual Enrollment Policy 5534	Cathy Moore Ruth Steidinger Sylvia Wilkins John Williams David Wehbie Crystal Reardon	
<p>Ms. Moore explained that the dual enrollment policy guidelines are for students who are gaining credit through some other source than WCPSS. The old policy and R&P does not have some specific language that needs to be addressed so that current opportunities are aligned with current processes. Ms. Moore also explained that final approval of dual enrollment credits lies with the principal and provided examples of what circumstances could warrant dual enrollment and the potential for interpretation. Staff shared circumstances in which the principal may want to deny the request. Most principals want to exercise broad flexibility. Dr. Martin suggested including some language in the policy that encourages dual enrollment. Dr. Steidinger warned the committee to expect changes to the policy due to changes to NCVPS. Ms. Moore shared that NCVPS changes will affect students this summer. Dr. Steidinger shared that SACS accreditation provides issues for middle school students. Mr. Tedesco suggested educating the community on this possibility and engaging the community partners. Staff discussed the challenges with current partnerships. The committee discussed concerns that some students gain access to dual enrollment opportunities that do not cost (Leadership Academies) and some do not. Mr. Wehbie shared information regarding Wake Tech options to ensure equity. The committee discussed challenges to using NCVPS and making sure that students have correct information regarding the opportunities through NCVPS as they are planning. Ms. Majestic shared that the policy needs a little more work on the language in the policy. The committee considered potential language changes. Ms. Moore invited the committee to send questions and feedback as staff continues to work on the policy.</p>		
Student Assignment for Extended Family Professional Leave	Judy Pepler Laura Evans Karen Hamilton	1:44
<p>Dr. Martin shared that this is not policy but a couple of cases arose this year of parents going on sabbatical. Ms. Pepler shared that there is some discussion as to whether we need a policy. Ms. Evans shared that the goal is to provide stability; there are many different reasons why students will leave the district and if students are at the same level when they return and want to come back then staff works really hard to place the students back into the same school. She also shared that the problem is with K-3 grade span because of the cap on class size. The committee discussed the implications of guaranteeing students a seat when they leave for different reasons. Staff asserted as long as capacity allows, they will make every effort to place students returning to the district in the school they attended previously. Staff and the committee discussed the process for assigning students when they return and ensuring consistency in the process. Staff and the committee discussed the school placement of students hindering parental professional opportunities. Dr. Martin shared that there needs to be a firm commitment that we're doing everything that we can to seat the students in the same school and be proactive in the decision making process. Staff and the committee discussed students who have special needs, return to the district and are mainstreamed. Ms. Majestic suggested this situation fits under the transfer policy under reasons transfers that may be approved by the office of student assignment. Ms. Hamilton, from the social work stand point, explained that students leave over the summer and come back</p>		

sometime in the fall (not in the same school year), so the district needs to create a standard. Staff and the committee discussed differentiating conditions in which a seat may be held and the impact that has on equity and equality. The committee discussed whether there should be a policy or a statement that says that staff will do what they can. Ms. Goldman suggested the board makes the determinations' and then gives directive to staff whether this situation should be handled through the transfer policy or a new policy discussion.

Ms. Goldman made a motion to handle the situation through the transfer policy.

Vote:

Favor: Goldman, Tedesco

Oppose: Kushner, Martin

The committee discussed whether staff should draft a policy or whether the decision should go to the Board of Education.

Ms. Kushner made a motion to send the issue to the Executive Committee to let the chair and vice-chair determine where it should go.

Vote:

Favor: Goldman, Kushner, Tedesco

Oppose: Martin

Transportation Policies	Judy Pepler Don Haydon, Jr. Bob Snidemiller	2:29
<p>Staff presented transportation polices 7105, 7125 (& R&P), 7155, 7160 for review of language changes and adjustments due to the new assignment plan. Mr. Snidemiller shared the policies and reviewed suggested changes. For Policy 7105 (Eligibility of Transportation), Ms. Kushner shared concerns about expediting transportation requests for transportation for students with multiple household custody arrangements. Mr. Snidemiller shared that the department can try to make this a priority. For Policy 7125 (Bus routing and bus stops policy) Mr. Tedesco suggested adding a caveat in Section A.1 that says “should be expected most days.” Dr. Martin questioned ride times and Mr. Snidemiller defined ride times as the time students step on the bus to the time they get to the school or back to the bus stop. Staff and the committee discussed bus routing plans. All policies will be at the work session and Board of Education meeting on June 5.</p>		
Grading System Policy 5520	Cathy Moore Ruth Steidinger Sylvia Wilkins	2:49
<p>Staff presented the policy as developed by the ED Task Force and the staff designated to work on grading. Staff and the committee discussed the content of the policy. Ms. Majestic explained that policy should be the non-negotiables, identify the parameters in which they can embellish, and items identified can be considered potential policy issues. The staff and committee discussed the Board of Education clarifying the intent of the policy. Staff asserted that current systems and structures do not support what is stated as the purpose of the grade. Staff would like direction as to what is the purpose of the grade and consistency of measures. Dr. Steidinger shared that every last bit of the draft needs to be in the policy because that’s what the task force agreed upon. Dr. Wilkins shared that teachers need the direction and consistency. The committee discussed next steps with regard to the Grading Policy. The committee agreed to have joint meetings to discuss</p>		

next steps. Dr. Martin summarized the information that staff needs to include: the purpose, consistent measures, teacher guidance in the grading policy.

Adjournment	Chair Martin	3:08