

POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

**Curtis R. Milteer Sr. Recreational Center
Conference Room
132 Robertson Street, Suffolk, VA 23438
October 28, 2024**

Present:

Members

- ✓ Dr. Judith Brooks-Buck, ***School Board Member***
- ✓ Mrs. Heather Howell, ***Vice-Chair School Board Member***
- ✓ Mrs. Phyllis Byrum, ***School Board Member***

Participants

- ✓ Wendell M. Waller, Esq. ***School Board Attorney***
- ✓ Renee Davenport, ***Legal Administrative Assistant***

Attendees

➤ Meeting called to order.

- Dr. Brooks-Buck called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.
- The minutes were reviewed and approved for the meeting held on September 23, 2024.

➤ Unfinished Business

- None to be considered.

➤ New Business

POLICY SECTION 9-11.6

Only July 9, 2024, Governor Youngkin issued Executive Order 33 that requires cell phone-free education in public schools to promote the health and safety of Virginia's K-12 students. On September 16, 2024, the VDOE issued a Guidance document for Cell Phone-Free Education pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order 33. Local school boards are to review existing policies and/or work to create or revise policies that adhere with the following minimum guidance of VDOE by no later than January 1, 2025. The proposed policy provides a general statement of policy and directs the superintendent to develop regulations. By having specific requirements relative to cell-phone free education in regulations rather than in Board Policy will allow for greater flexibility from school to school and will allow the superintendent to revise regulations as the need arises. This change in policy is required by EO 33 and guidelines of VDOE.

Attorney Waller informed the Committee that the original cell phone policy that he presented to the Committee had many of the requirements required by the Guidance document, but upon further review Attorney Waller was of the opinion that it would be more prudent to have cell phone regulations instead of a detailed cell phone policy. If specifics

are included in policy, when something changes the policy will have to be revised and/or amended. However, if the specifics are set out in regulations, the Superintendent can revise the regulations when the need arises. The Committee discussed some of the requirements in the VDOE guidelines for the cell phone policies. The Committee also discussed how the guidelines will be communicated to parents and the school community. Committee members stressed the importance of having information regarding the cell phone policy communicated to parents and having parents sign indicating they have received a copy of the policy/regulations. The Committee suggested adding language to policy regarding notification requirements. Attorney Waller will add the suggested language. The Committee agreed to forward to full School Board for first and second reading after the approval.

POLICY SECTION 2-2.7:1

This proposed change in policy is being recommended by Dr. Andre Skinner, Director of Career and Technical Education. This change in policy removes the 20-member cap for the Career and Technical Education Advisory Council. It expands the categories of individuals serving on the CTE Advisory Council to include persons representing business and industry; labor organizations; Workforce Investment Councils; agencies serving out-of-school, homeless, and/or at-risk youth; special populations to include but not be limited to individuals with disabilities, economically disadvantaged families or those preparing for non-traditional training and employment; local community colleges; teachers; parents; students; and other interested community leaders for the purpose of providing recommendations, direction, and assistance to career and technical education. It also changes the annual report date from October to December 1st. This change in policy is allowed by VDOE Regulation 8VAC20-120-50. The Committee agreed to forward to full School Board for first and second reading.

POLICY SECTION 2-2.7:2

Due to the conversation brought up at the last meeting, Attorney Waller drafted certain revisions to Policy Section 2-2.7:2. This proposed change in policy will allow members of the School Board to reappoint someone currently serving on a citizen advisory committee without the citizen having to resubmit an application or letter of interest for re-appointment. When a board member wants to reappoint someone to serve on a citizen advisory committee, the board member must notify the clerk in writing 48 hours prior to the scheduled board meeting when the board will be voting to appoint citizens to serve on citizen advisory committees. This change is allowed by Virginia Code Section 22.1-78. Discussion ensued as to notifying members when they will no longer be on the committee and adding language to indicate that members are only serving for one year or having a fixed date for the applications. The Committee discussed adding language that the terms in committees will start on July 1st. Committee appointments will be made at the June meeting for a term starting July 1st. The Committee agreed to forward to full School Board for first and second reading.

POLICY SECTION 9-18.2

Students that are suspended from school for less than 10 days (short-term suspensions) are not entitled to a hearing before the School Board. The short-term suspension can be appealed to the coordinator of student services and then to the Student Services Review

Committee. This change in policy was previously made to Section 9-18.8 but was not made in Section 9-18.2. This change in policy is allowed under Virginia Code Section 22.1-277.04. The Committee agreed to forward to full School Board for first and second reading.

POLICY SECTION 10-1.1:1

This is the policy recommended by Board Member Riddick. He has been asked to comment on the proposed language, but comments have not been received. This policy provides a general statement of policy regarding the board's oversight responsibilities and goes on to provide that the board will participate in certain engagement activities listed in policy. This change in policy is allowed by Virginia Code Section 22.1-79 and 22.1-78. Discussion ensued on how this policy can be implemented and decided to review when we have more input from Board Member Riddick.

POLICY SECTION 9-18.8

When a student has been assigned to an alternative education program, Virginia Code Section 22.1-277.2:1 allows the student or the student's parent to request review by the School Board. However, this review is on the record. The School Board has been conducting on the record reviews pursuant to the state code. This change in policy will now make it part of Board policy as well. This change in policy is allowed by Virginia Code Section 22.1-277.2:1. The Committee asked when a Record Review is held. Attorney Waller explained that when a student has been assigned to attend an alternative education program (e.g. Turlington Schools) a Record Review can be requested. The School Board can decide to confirm the placement, reverse it, or change the amount of time that the student is to remain in the alternative placement.

➤ Business by Committee Members

- Committee discussed possible meeting dates due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

➤ Adjournment

- Meeting was tentatively set for November 18th at 11 am.