

**Wellesley Public Schools
School Committee Meeting
May 21st, 2021
Via Zoom**

The meeting of the School Committee was called to order at 2:03pm. Those present were Chair Linda Chow, Vice Chair Melissa Martin, Secretary Catherine Mirick, and members Jim Roberti & Leda Eizenberg. Also attending were Superintendent David Lussier, Director of Student Services Sarah Orlov and Amy Rogers of Lyons & Rogers, LLC.

A conference call line was opened so the public could attend and remained open throughout the meeting.

Public Comment

David Prock, Schaller St, was very angry about his perceived lack of communication from the district regarding questions about discrimination.

Darren Braccia, 11 Parker Rd, voiced his concern regarding the Black Lives Matter flags flying in schools across the district and other issues.

Reports

Ms. Chow reported that work has been moving forward on researching lighting the Hunnewell Field. There will be an abutters meeting on 5/27 and a Community forum on June 2nd. She also noted that she will be making a statement next week regarding communications because of the tenor of emails we have been receiving lately.

Consent Agenda

Ms. Chow entertained a motion to approve the consent agenda, which included minutes from 4/13/21(retreat) and 4/13/21(evening) meetings as amended.

Moved: Mr. Roberti; **Seconded:** Ms. Eizenberg; **Roll Call:** Ms. Eizenberg - Yes; Ms. Mirick - Yes; Mr. Roberti - Yes; Ms. Martin - Yes; Ms. Chow - Yes.

Discussion of Policies

Dr. Lussier introduced the topic as part of our ongoing work to keep our policies up to date with all state and federal laws. The committee will be reviewing and discussing policies today, they will be posted on the district website, and then they will be voted on at the meeting on 5/25/21.

ACAB - Harassment

Ms. Rogers walked the Committee through a new policy ACAB based on updates to state law and new Title IX regulations that were passed in 8/2020 which changed procedures around sexual harassment. The new regulations codify how schools must respond to allegations including specifics on grievance procedures. The Committee agreed to include the evidentiary standard of preponderance of the evidence in the policy. The Committee also discussed the appeal process, record keeping requirements, investigation process and supportive measures all included in the policy. The new policy ACAB includes language that is

very similar to the current policy JBA - Student to Student Harassment and the MASC no longer uses policy JBA, so the Committee must decide if they want to retain policy JBA.

JFABD - Educational Rights of Children & Youth in Homeless Situations

Ms. Orlov, through the policy subcommittee, recommended that the Committee replace the current policy JFABD with the updated MASC version of the policy. The MASC version is more clear on definitions of school of origin, ensuring privacy of living arrangements and transportation. This recommendation comes from her work with the Educational Stability Office at DESE.

JF - Admission of Students to the Wellesley Public Schools

There is a slight change to the references at the end of the policy as recommended by DESE.

LBC - Approval of New Private Schools in Town of Wellesley

Dr. Lussier explained these policies were the result of work done back in 2018, but were never actually approved by the Committee. Much of the language used comes from the DESE language surrounding duties of the district with regards to newly opening private schools. Policy LBC lays out the criteria that the district will use in that evaluation. The standard from DESE is that the new school should "Equal in thoroughness and efficiency public schools in the same town".

Policy LBC-E1 & LBC-E2 are a checklist and rubric to assist in evaluating schools.

The Committee discussed the process of approving a new school including whether a school could be rejected and what standards we are measuring against. It was also discussed that while LBC should be policy, LBC-E1 & LBC-E2 are more procedural.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30pm

Moved: Ms. Martin; **Seconded:** Mr. Roberti; **Roll Call:** Ms Eizenberg - Yes; Ms. Mirick - Yes; Mr. Roberti - Yes; Ms. Martin - Yes; Ms. Chow - Yes.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Mirick
Secretary

Documents:

Current Policies ACAB, JBA, JFABD & JF

Recommended Policies ACAB, JBA, JFABD, JF, LBC, LBC-E1 & LBC-E2