Date: January 11, 2017
Committee members present: Jennifer Patterson, chair; Maureen Redmond-Scura; Alana Kimball; Thomas Croteau
Board members also present: Clint Cogswell, Pam Wicks
Administration: Terri Forsten, Superintendent

Committee Chair Jennifer Patterson called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.
Superintendent Forsten noted that the Communications & Policy Committee has the same membership as last year. She noted that two policies that had been reviewed in December, Policy #530 – Wellness and Policy #711 – Student Transportation, would be reviewed again, with revisions based on feedback.

Superintendent Forsten noted revisions in four additional policies: Policy #121 – Election of Officers; Policy #122 – Treasurer; Policy #123 – Clerk Duties; and Policy #124 – School Board Standing Committees.

Superintendent Forsten introduced Policy #530 – Wellness, which has been revised for the Committee’s review.

Ms. Redmond-Scura noted that the revisions were excellent. Ms. Patterson asked whether there are other components of wellness that should be considered and included; this policy focuses on nutrition and physical activity. Superintendent Forsten noted that there are policies that address other components. Mr. Croteau and Mr. Cogswell suggested several wording changes to this policy.

The Committee voted 4-0 to recommend to the full Board that it adopt Policy #530 – Wellness as revised (motioned by Ms. Redmond-Scura, seconded by Ms. Patterson).

Superintendent Forsten noted revisions on Policy #711 – Student Transportation, and answered questions regarding the transportation of students to and from private schools; the District’s current practice; whether the District charges for this; and other factors. The District provides transportation for several private schools, including Bishop Brady High School (grades 9-12; 5-10 students annually; standard $25 fee per student) and St. John’s Regional School (K-8; 20-30 students annually; no fee). RSA 193:12 refers to educational legal residency; this specifies in a parenting plan or court decree the enrollment and school attendance for students whose parents may be separated or divorced. The District is not obligated to provide transportation if the student is living or sleeping in another town but attending school in Concord.
Ms. Patterson suggested that the language in the Board’s current Policy #711 be retained, as well as the new language suggested to NHSBA Policy EEA with one additional phrase, “within the district” to follow after “private schools” and one change to the title, Transportation Director. References in the existing policy to the State Board of Education were removed, and reference to a District Transportation Committee be changed to Communications & Policy Committee.

The Committee voted 4-0 to recommend to the full Board that it adopt Policy #711 – Student Transportation, as revised (motioned by Ms. Patterson, seconded by Mr. Croteau).

Superintendent Forsten introduced the next proposed Policy #121 – Election of Officers. She noted that the current policy was revised in 2007. Proposed revisions would clarify the Executive Committee and transfer of roles. It was noted that it is in the School District Charter that the Superintendent preside over the organizational meeting of the Board at its first January meeting; Ms. Patterson suggested adding the Charter language, “The chief administrative officer shall preside over the election of the president,” to this policy. Ms. Patterson noted that she did not see any legal references to this policy, and suggested adding a reference to the Charter.

The Committee voted 4-0 to recommend to the full Board that it adopt Policy #121 – Elected Board Officers, as revised (motioned by Ms. Patterson, seconded by Mr. Croteau).

Superintendent Forsten introduced the next Policy #122 – Treasurer. This is one of the oldest policies on record, having been adopted in 1962. There are only minor revisions to this policy, including adding language to align with the Charter, and adding legal references. It was noted that the Treasurer is an elected position. Ms. Palley read the language from the actual Charter, which refers to action that would have held if certain other language regarding proposed legislation had taken place in 2012, which it did not. Ms. Redmond-Scura noted that some of the language from the 1962 policy is not in agreement with the Charter language, and needs to be changed. The Committee decided to defer action on this policy, and to seek a legal opinion.

Superintendent Forsten introduced the next Policy #123 – Clerk Duties. The current policy was adopted in 1984. The Committee decided to defer action on this policy also, and to seek a legal opinion.

Superintendent Forsten introduced Policy #124 – School Board Standing Committees, which was revised last spring. The only revision would be to add a reference to the related NHSBA policy.

The Committee voted 4-0 to recommend to the full Board that it adopt Policy #124 – School Board Standing Committees as revised (motioned by Ms. Patterson, seconded by Ms. Redmond-Scura).

The Committee voted 4-0 to adjourn (motioned by Ms. Redmond-Scura, seconded by Mr. Croteau).
The Committee adjourned at 7:00 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Patterson, Chair
Terri Forsten, Recorder