Concord School District  
Communications Committee Minutes

School Board Committee: Communications
Date: July 9, 2014
Committee members present: Jennifer Patterson, Chair, Kass Ardinger (arrived 6:15 p.m.), Tom Croteau (appointed), Melissa Donovan, Oliver Spencer
Administration: Chris Rath

Committee Chair Jennifer Patterson asked Tom Croteau to serve as a member of the Communications Committee in Kass Ardinger’s absence. The Committee will review a number of policies, all of which have been reviewed at previous meetings.

1. Policy #754 School Visitors
Superintendent Rath reviewed the proposed revisions to Policy #754 School Visitors. This revision was suggested by Oliver Spencer earlier this year to make the expectations and procedures for visitors consistent across schools. The Committee was in favor of uniform procedures for all schools, to the extent possible. Tom Croteau suggested adding language that visitors will return to the office at the end of the visit and return the visitor pass.

   The Committee voted 4-0 to recommend the policy, as revised, to the full Board for a first reading at its August meeting.

2. Policy #671 Interdisciplinary Credit
Superintendent Rath recommended revising existing Policy #671 Graduation Requirements, adding a provision that addresses the situation where a specific course may satisfy the credit requirement in more than one subject area but a student may only use the course for credit in one of the subject areas.

   The Committee voted 4-0 to recommend the policy, with one revision, to the full Board for a first reading at its August meeting.

3. Policy #540 Code of Student Conduct and new Policy #___ School Wide Behavioral Interventions and Supports
Superintendent Rath reviewed the recommended change to existing Board Policy #540 Code of Student Conduct, deleting the paragraph requiring schools to have a building discipline plan and presented a proposed new policy, School Wide Behavioral Interventions and Supports, that emphasizes a proactive approach to teaching appropriate behaviors and using data carefully collected about student behaviors to address problems and issues within each school. Rath noted that two schools, Rundlett
Middle School and Beaver Meadow School, have formally adopted and are implementing PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports). One school, Christa McAuliffe School, is in the study phase for adopting PBIS. The other schools will need to review their current discipline plans and make the necessary revisions to be consistent with the Board policy. Melissa Donovan requested that the Board see the expectations that are developed by the different schools to ensure that as students move from school to school, these expectations are appropriately aligned.

The Committee voted 4-0 to present this policy to the full Board for a first reading at its August meeting.

4. Social Media policy
Superintendent Rath presented a revised draft policy on the use of social media by staff. Committee members recommended a number of changes to clarify the District’s right to review the content of communication on social media sites which staff use for district- or school-related business.

The Committee voted 4-0 to recommend the new Social Media policy, as revised, to the full Board for a first reading at its August meeting.

The Committee also requested that the district attorney attend the next meeting of the Communications Committee in August to provide counsel about the District’s rights and limits in reviewing staff’s personal social media sites.

5. Dress Code/Uniform
Superintendent Rath reviewed a number of resources which have been posted for Committee members to review prior to the next meeting. At the next meeting, the Committee will discuss next steps in the consideration of a policy requiring students to wear a uniform in the Concord schools. Committee members were asked to review these resources prior to the August meeting.

The Communications Committee will meet in August. There will be three agenda items: legal advice on the Social Media policy, next steps for a School Uniform policy, and a draft of a new policy, Filling a School Board Vacancy.

The committee adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Patterson, Chair

Chris Rath, recorder