

QUINCY SCHOOL COMMITTEE

POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, May 5, 2014

A meeting of the Policy Subcommittee was held on Monday, May 5, 2014 at 6:00 pm in the 2nd Floor Conference Room at the NAGE Building. Present were Mr. Noel DiBona, Mrs. Kathryn Hubley, Ms. Barbara Isola, Mrs. Anne Mahoney, Mr. Dave McCarthy, and Mr. Paul Bregoli, Chair. Also attending were Superintendent DeCristofaro, Deputy Superintendent Kevin Mulvey, Mrs. Mary Fredrickson, Ms. Kerry Ginty, Ms. Beth Hallett, Mrs. Meg McMillen, Mrs. Maura Papile, Ms. Madeline Roy, Mr. Keith Segalla, Mr. Robert Shaw, Mr. Lawrence Taglieri, Ms. Judy Todd; and Ms. Laura Owens, Clerk.

Mr. Bregoli called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. The High School Principals and Community Service Coordinators updated on the status of Grade 12 student completion of the Community Service requirement. Mr. Shaw thanked both Meg and Kerry for their efforts, communication has been the key to getting close to finishing. North Quincy High School has 6 students still to complete their Community Service (2%) and Quincy High School has 46 (11%). Many of the students have made contact about outstanding paperwork, there is a high level of awareness of the deadline.

Ms. Isola asked how parents feel about the program. Both principals agreed that they haven't heard any complaints from parents about it. Mr. DiBona asked if a student mentoring program for freshmen and new students would help with Community Service. Mr. Taglieri said there are mentoring opportunities at the middle and elementary levels, but this is an interesting idea. Mr. DiBona asked about recycling, could this be something done at athletic and other school events. Mrs. McMillen said that the principals, deans, guidance, and home room teachers have really helped to promote Community Service this year. She suggested an earlier deadline would help surface issues, other cities and towns use the prom as an initial benchmark. Mr. Bregoli thanked the Coordinators for their extraordinary efforts.

Mrs. McMillen asked what the plan will be for Community Service next year. Dr. DeCristofaro said there will be a Policy Subcommittee meeting in June to discuss how to go forward. Mrs. Mahoney suggested that Community Service Coordinators think of ways to simplify the process.

Mr. Bregoli then reviewed the Athletic Eligibility policy; the earlier version drafted in March had a credit requirement which did not work for both high schools. The revised policy, based on discussions with both principals and input from Guidance and the Athletic Directors simply states that students may not fail more than one class and be eligible to compete athletically.

Mr. DiBona expressed concern that the further revision of the policy has pushed out into late in the last semester and students are at a disadvantage not knowing about the change and the effect on Fall sports eligibility. Mr. Bregoli said that for fall sports, these are based on full year grades. Mr. DiBona asked for consideration of starting this policy in the fall. Mr. DiBona said he feels comfortable with the revised policy, but not the timing of it.

Mr. Bregoli asked the two Principals for their thoughts. Mr. Shaw said that the fall eligibility being based on full year grades is not new, and there are not a significant number of students that would be affected by this change. Mr. Taglieri said he understands Mr. DiBona's concern, but agrees with Mr. Shaw. Ms. Owens reminded the School Committee that the vast majority of student athletes are not affected by this. An analysis of this past fall's athletes showed that 50% of athletes are honor roll students, 75% have a C average or better, and a very small number of students would have been ineligible to play under this revised policy.

Mr. Bregoli said that receiving a passing a class in summer school would make a student eligible for Fall athletics. Mr. McCarthy said that we have to start somewhere and this change is way overdue. Mr. McCarthy said that he has spoken with parents and coaches and supports starting this immediately. He supports this revised policy and wants to move forward.

Mrs. Hubley asked about core classes vs. electives. Mr. Taglieri said the wording as is would ensure that a student cannot fail two core classes. Mrs. Mahoney said that the statistics are important and also getting the information about summer school out there. She is glad to hear that the Athletic Directors and Guidance department are supportive, our coaches are focused on academic success and this will enhance our athletic programs. Ms. Isola asked for clarification that Fall sports eligibility is based on full year grades, while winter and spring courses are based on the semester report card. She supports the revised policy.

Ms. Isola made a motion to move revised language for School Committee Policy 9.8.5 to the full School Committee. The revised policy will read:

To be eligible for high school sports, a student may not have more than one failing grade during the last marking period preceding the contest. To be eligible for fall sports, a student may not have more than one failing grade on the previous academic year final report card. All incoming grade 9 students are eligible for fall sports. The academic eligibility of all students shall be considered as official and determining only on the date when the report cards for that ranking period have been issued.

Mrs. Hubley seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Ms. Isola made a motion to adjourn the Policy Subcommittee Meeting at 6:30 pm. Mrs. Hubley seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.