

GREENFIELD SCHOOLS
POLICY AND PROGRAM SUBCOMMITTEE

Minutes of Thursday, 9.7.2017

Present: Subcommittee members Hollins (Chair), Alexander.

Also present until 3:10 pm., Transportation Coordinator. Superintendent Harper at 3:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order at 3:03 p.m.
 - g. The transportation coordinator briefly asked about policy EEAA Walkers and Riders on the agenda. Michael mentioned a meeting with the safety subcommittee. Policy/Program Subcommittee has no new information to inform policy discussion. EEAA will be postponed to next meeting. SH clarified that the policy and program committee does not create or review routes.
2. Other: Tracking document discussion/update. Continuing to review all school committee and subcommittee minutes so all policy action dates are identified.
3. Discussion of Policies:
 - a. IHAE: Physical Education. Revised in 2011 when physical education expert was on school committee, adding reference to national standards. One sentence unchanged that GPS supports a sequential K-12 program appropriate for students and in accordance with state guidelines. Refer to school committee with no change recommended. Subcom is open to feedback from physical education teachers. School committee may have interest.
 - b. IGBH Alternative Programs (4th subcom discussion)

SH reviewed comments and revisions recommended in reviews. Regarding revision to include annual evaluation and report on new alternative programs, Superintendent Harper said additional reporting requirements adds a significant burden to administrative positions and changes the positions. New revision suggests a progress report without any specific timeframe mentioned for any new alternative program. Advising the school committee of the goal of a new or continuing alternative program and its costs is what happens now and is considered reasonable.
Refer to school committee with today's revision.
 - c. IE Organization of Instruction (4th subcom discussion)

Policy states that GPS is structured with three levels: primary/elementary K-5, middle school, 6-8, and high school 9-12. High school is defined as 9-12 by statute. For today, decision to leave this because grades move around based on which schools are available. Policy reference to "Curriculum Frameworks" may be outdated wording; DESE changes what they call state curriculum standards from year to year. Decision remove that wording. Change one sentence wording on student services to "Student services, including special education, are provided at all grade levels according to requirements."
Refer to school committee with today's revision.
 - d. IGA Curriculum Development (3rd discussion)

This general policy mentions the need to constantly be reviewing and adapting curriculum and sets an expectation that faculty participate in this process.

Reviews have suggested adding need to be “adapting to changing time and educational requirements” and using professional experts when needed, not only staff and parents. The 1.9.17 revision suggested curriculum review be on a rotational schedule and that professional development be considered to assure staff have the expertise needed for new curriculum. Another prior revision was assuring that civil rights, cultural bias, and demeaning stereotypes are reviewed.

Today’s discussion was whether or not mention of considering instructional training to assure teachers have new curriculum expertise should be mentioned in a policy titled ‘curriculum development.’ There is no other Section I policy on professional development. All agreed to some wordsmithing revisions. JH requested the remove the 5-year curriculum plan sentence but leave sentence for having a multi-year rotational schedule. Agreement on today’s wording changes.

Refer to school committee with today’s revision.

e. IGC/IGH 8th Grade Taking 9th Grade Courses

SH read the brief policy that makes this an option and mentions school committee support for advancement. Participation is on a space available basis. The policy leaves this decision to the High School Principal. Discussion focused on the last sentence: “The superintendent will develop guidelines to implement this policy.” There are no guidelines in writing at this time. Prior general guidelines were shared previously in answer to a question. Superintendent Harper advised that the new Principal received no advisement on how this works from Principal Woodcock.

4:15 p.m. and the first band instrument was heard. Superintendent Harper left the meeting. It seemed like some 8th-grade students are taking 9th-grade world language.

4. Recommendations to School Committee

Summing up today’s discussion: Tracking info indicates multiple policies ready for school committee review. Today’s discussion moved a few additional policy reviews forward.

5. Adjournment at 4:20 p.m.