

Policy Subcommittee Meeting - 10/9/2020
Front Conference Room
District Office, 9 Widger Road, Marblehead, MA 01945

Members present - Sarah Gold, Emily Barron, and John Buckey

Call to order: 9:05 am

- I. Meeting Minutes from 9/18/2020 were not available to be voted and will be voted at the next meeting.
- II. Policy EBFA- Face Mask
 - A. Parents of students have been inquiring if disposable face masks are ok for students to wear in school. It has been confirmed by the Head Nurse - Deana Mcmann that they are ok.
 - B. Dr. Buckey will address disposable masks in his weekly update.
- III. Policy IHBG - Homeschooling
 1. Nan Murphy presented the Subcommittee with a presentation on the current MPS homeschooling request process and gave proposed changes to the process. Ms. Murphy's presentation is attached to the minutes for reference.
 - Homeschooling form- The current form on the MHD school website provides limited information.
 - Ms. Murphy suggested expanding the assessment portfolio, provide space for the curriculum being used, and creating space for each subject to provide details on the curriculum.
 - She suggested offering families the option to take MCAS, and creating resources for families.
 - Ms. Murphy also suggested adding a date for the assessment portfolio to be submitted and a follow up date.
 - There is no information about IEPs and Special Education services on the form. Special Ed and General Ed students follow the same application process and IEPs are still active. Eric Oxford's statement was read regarding Special Education and Out of District students-

Pretty straightforward on my end: if parent of an OOD student wants to be homeschooled, the parent simply follows the same process to request homeschool permission from district for a student enrolled in MPS. Once that request is approved, we terminate the child's enrollment at the OOD school.

The IEP stays active and intact...including the placement, as this is the child's "stay put" right. Homeschool = private school as far as the state is concerned. So, if the parents were to turn around and say that they want to re-enroll the student, we'd call a reconvene meeting and determine the appropriate next steps in terms of placement, services, etc.

It's no different than if a parent places a child in a private school on their own. We follow our same SPED protocols in terms of annual review meetings, etc.

We actually have one OOD child whose parent recently was approved to be homeschooled.

Let me know if you need anything else or have any questions for me. Thanks!

- Ms. Murphy presented Lowell Public School as an example of a district that has a comprehensive online form.
 - She suggested that MHD school district should create a database of homeschooled students to keep track of students.
2. Dr. Buckey asked Ms. Murphy if the Homeschooling request process is manageable. Ms. Murphy stated that this year there are a lot of applications. She suggested a resource page on the website for families to find links to homeschooling programs and information.

Ms. Gold asked Ms. Murphy in the end what should her responsibility be in guiding families in the Homeschooling application process? Ms. Murphy stated that currently, MHD is going above and beyond in regards to helping families because of the pandemic. In a typical year, an updated online application will make the process easier.

Ms. Gold asked what the next steps should be and if the policy should be put on the October 29th School Committee agenda. Dr. Buckey asked if there are any language changes or adjustments in procedures needed. Ms. Gold stated that Dr. Buckey should make sure the Policy aligns with IHGB-R and the first reading of the policy can be on October 29th.

Ms. Gold asked if there are any changes needed to the language describing "parents competence" law. Mr. Buckey asked Ms. Murphy to look at what other districts do in regards to parent competence. Ms. Gold asked if parents should submit a resume to show competence. Mr. Buckey suggested presenting a High School diploma or associate's degrees. Ms. Barron stated a High School diploma may be better because a parent may not have an up to date resume. The parent competence section will be revisited.

IV. Ms. Barron presented information on Policy 21 the MASC's online Policy hosting service. Ms. Gold and Ms. Barron asked Dr. Buckey to pursue the Policy 21 program.

Adjourned at 10:13 am
Respectfully Submitted
Emily Barron

