

Portland Public Schools

Policy Subcommittee

Minutes February 9, 2022

Attending: Tim Lavoy, Laurel Steinhauser, Charles Britton, Dawn Davis and Meg Scata and 1 unidentified member of the public

Meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM

Approval of the Agenda

Covid Policy – 4118.237 Emergency Policy on Wearing Face Mask/Coverings

This policy has been in place, with Governor's Executive Orders, beginning in 2020 and amended and extended through Feb. 15, 2022. The mask mandate requires anyone entering, working or attending classes in our school buildings or riding in school buses, to wear an approved mask. There are exceptions and the policy indicates that. Policy also indicates that there are other mitigation factors to consider.

Today's meeting was to talk about the possibility that the mask mandate being extended to Feb, 28, 2022 as the Governor has recommended at a press conference on Feb. 7, 2022.

Our goal, as we weigh information, and responses to the survey is to consider the best way to promote the health and safety of all stakeholders in our buildings.

Dr. Britton plans to send letters survey for students grades 5 – 12, parents and staff to weigh in on masks or not.

Covid Policy – 4118.239 Required Covid 19 Vaccinations

Vaccinations, mandatory testing if not vaccinated and other related orders were also discussed. We will have to wait for guidance from the Department of Health, CT State Dept. OF Education and Chatham Health District.

CABE Policy Updates

We discussed the process of receiving CABE updates which are sent four times per year. (November, January, April and July). CABE Policy Updates are sent when there are changes to laws or new mandates are made by Federal and State. Policies can also be updated as districts update and modify practices.

We are meeting on a monthly basis and will continue to review past updates. For future updates we will receive the packet as soon as it becomes available. Digital copies and hard copies will be available.

Part of the process of updating and recommending policies is to make the actual changes to the policies during the meeting. First readings of policies to the Board as a whole should show the additions, deletions and changes to the policy.

Policy committee members can also recommend further discussion about a particular policy at any time. Trends in education, changes to curricula, and questions from stakeholders begin the review process.

Our next meeting will be on February 17, 2022 at 1:00 PM.

Agenda will include the results of the mask survey and updates extending the Executive Orders to Feb. 28, 2022 and DPH/CSDE guidance regarding masks or vaccinations and CABE policy recommendations.

Respectfully Submitted

Meg Scata

Chair of Policy Subcommittee