

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 8 BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Policy Sub-Committee**  
**Tuesday, June 6, 2023**  
**Virtual Meeting 8:00 PM**

To join the video meeting, click this link: <https://meet.google.com/yvg-ueem-owb>

Otherwise, to join by phone, dial +1 408-458-8125 and enter this PIN: 935 474 636#

To view more phone numbers, click this link: <https://tel.meet/yvg-ueem-owb?hs=5>

**AGENDA**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Public Comments
4. Approval of May 17, 2023 Meeting Minutes - Encl. 4.1
5. Review and Discuss of Policy 5112 - Student Attendance - Encl. 5.1
6. Review and Discuss of Policy 5114 - Student Discipline - Encl. 6.1
7. Review and Discuss of Policy 5500 - Non-Discrimination (Students) - Encl. 7.1
8. Public Comments
9. Adjournment

Copies of the agenda enclosures are available on the website at [www.rhamschools.org](http://www.rhamschools.org)

If a member of the public requires a physical space and the equipment to attend this virtual meeting in real-time, a request must be made to Jessica Rainville via email at [jessica.rainville@rhamschools.org](mailto:jessica.rainville@rhamschools.org) by 3:00 PM on the day of the meeting.

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 8 BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Policy Sub-Committee**  
**Tuesday, March 28, 2023**  
**Virtual Meeting 8:00 PM**

**Meeting Minutes**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Carey Fraulino called the meeting to order at 8:01.

Board Members Present - Carey Fraulino, Eric Shevchenco, Gabe Marques , Heather Summerer, Sue Stolfi

Others Present - Colin McNamara, Penny Bryzgel, Michael Seroussi, Chris Mader, Carri-Ann Bell, Attorney Sarah Gleason

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Public Comments -

Jessica Stewart - Amston, CT - Thanked the Board adding the homework policy to the agenda for the meeting.

4. Review and Discuss Policy 5215 - Student Dress - Enc. 4.1

Sue Stolfi spoke about her desire to have the dress policy be placed on the agenda for a policy subcommittee. She noted that there is an inconsistency between the expectations for middle and high school students and feels that having consistent expectations for students at both schools will make things easier for students and staff. She offered suggestions for examples of current policies in other districts to review, and pointed to Region 17 Public Schools as being one that the district could look at and possibly use as a model.

Administrators talked about the practical challenges of enforcing a dress code, and want to be mindful about the policy being something that can be enforced without being discriminatory towards any particular group of students.

Heather Summerer shared her concerns about a dress code. She shared information about a model dress code she had found from Oregon Now, which is intended to address the controversy around dress codes that can be detrimental for some students.

Attorney Sarah Gleason from Shipman and Goodwin spoke about the importance of a dress code not being discriminatory towards any particular group(s) of students.

The administration will put together a draft of a dress code policy based on the models that were suggested by Board Members and then share with Attorney Gleason before bringing the draft policy back to the Policy Subcommittee

#### 5. Review and Discuss Policy 5540 - School Lunch Charging - Enc. 5.1

The admin talked about the challenges that the district has faced over the year with the policy update that was made last May, as there has been confusion over whether or not students are allowed to be stopped from taking a la carte items if they don't have adequate funds in the Myschoolbucks account. Colin McNamara had consulted with the district's legal counsel to get clarification about this, and students will not be allowed to do this moving forward. This will be communicated with families via the principals' weekly newsletters to families.

#### 6. Review and Discuss Policy 5122 - Homework - Enc. 6.1

Concerns about homework have been discussed in the past. The homework experience is different for every student. It can vary depending on the student, as it is possible that some assignments may take one student 30 minutes, while a different student may take 60 minutes to complete the same assignment. A student's schedule of classes can also impact what their nightly homework may look like, as a greater amount of homework is typically associated with taking more advanced classes. Extracurricular activities that the student is involved in can also impact their schedules and ability to complete homework. Teachers are reminded to be cognizant of the challenges that students may face, and provide a degree of flexibility when possible for students who may be involved in school activities such as athletics that could have an impact on their ability to complete lengthy assignments.

Penny Bryzgel shared that she has spoken with teachers about being mindful of trying to not assign homework on holiday weekends and vacations.

#### 7. Review and Discuss Policy Audit

Colin McNamara briefly spoke about the feedback received from the policy audit that was conducted by Shipman and Goodwin. He noted that there are a number of policies that need to be reviewed and revised.

Eric Shevchenco spoke about the importance of taking the time that is needed to address the suggested updates.

#### 8. Public Comments

Tina To - Highlighted the fact that her daughter's athletic team is required to wear skirts and she would like us to consider allowing shorts for students who would prefer to do so. Also shared that her daughter just finished her HW, was working on HW on the weekend until 11:00 on Sunday night, and said that having five to six hours of homework every night is a normal experience for her children.

#### 9. Adjournment -

Motion to adjourn at 9:41 made by Eric Shevchenko, seconded by Carey Fraulino - Unanimous