

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT
JANUARY 5, 2012

POLICY – THIRD READING/APPROVAL – The following policies were recommended for revision by the NH School Boards Association and are subject to a third reading or approval.

- BB – School Board Legal Status – policy revision to reflect state law requiring school boards to establish structure, accountability, advocacy, and delivery of instruction. No changes were made from last meeting.
- BBAA – Board Member Authority – policy revision per NHSBA recommendation on authority of school board members. No changes were made from last meeting.
- BEAB – School Board Member Use of Electronic Communication Devices During School Board Meetings – new policy per NHSBA requesting members to refrain from using electronic communication devices during meetings. Revised to reflect that electronic communication may be used for School Board business.
- JEC – Manifest Educational Hardship – policy revision recommended by NHSBA to address time conflicts in implementing the policy. No changes were made from last meeting. Reviewed state statutes to verify that transportation is the responsibility of parent/guardian.
- KFA – Public Conduct on School Property/Assaults – policy revision recommended by NHSBA to address inappropriate public conduct on school property. No changes were made from last meeting.

POLICY – SECOND READING – The following policies have been recommended for athletics.

- Policy GEA – Athletic Team Coaches is a new policy governing District practice on selecting, compensating, and continuing athletic coaches. This policy was recommended by the NH School Boards Association and revised/approved by School Principal and Athletic Director. Revised to expand upon experience to include non-school setting with student team sports.
- Policy JLCJ – Concussions and Head Injuries is a new policy governing District practice on concussions and head injuries. This is an area of serious concern as more information on the ramifications of head injuries on health and education are known. The NH Department of Education, NH School Boards Association, NH Interscholastic Athletic Association, and Epping School Administration are recommending that students participating in competitive athletic activities have a baseline concussion test for eligibility. The policy addresses various administrative responsibilities, protocol for eligibility to play, protocol for return to play, concussion awareness and training, and academic issues in concussed student. No changes were made from last meeting.
- Policy JLCA – Physical Examinations of Students has been revised to reflect recommended Policy JLCJ above. No changes were made from last meeting.

WELLNESS POLICY – A question was raised about the wellness policy specifically regarding fundraising. Candy cannot be sold as a fundraiser during the school day per new regulations governing all foods and beverages sold or served to students including those available outside the school meals program. These guidelines cover vending machines, snack bars, school stores, concession stands on school grounds, school-sponsored fundraising activities, parties, celebrations, and meetings during the school day.

The following history is provided to document the various state and federal actions that have impacted wellness policy. Recent results from the NHDOE will require additional action on behalf of the District. This Wednesday the District Wellness Committee is meeting to review these results and recommend changes in School Board policy to meet the new guidelines and more closely match the school policies and revised NH School Boards Association policy.

2004 – School wellness policies were mandated by the 2004 Amendment to the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act and the Child Nutrition Act of 1996 effective for 2006-2007 School Year. According to the NHDOE the intent of the law was to improve the school environment by increasing healthy food choices and encouraging physical activity.

2005 – The NH Minimum Public School Standards were revised and approved effective the 2005-2006 School Year. Each school was required to make a meal available. Districts were to provide qualified staff to oversee food service program and to require a sanitation course for all food service staff. Schools were to provide adequate space for preparation and consumption of meals and adequate time to consume meals per the 2004 Reauthorization. Schools were to provide food and nutrition programs and to promote physical activity and fitness.

In September 2005 the District adopted the NH School Boards Associations' Policy JLCF Student Wellness Policy to meet the federal requirement for a school wellness policy. Policy calls for proper nutrition and appropriate physical activity. A district committee shall also be established to assess nutrition and physical activity and make recommendations. All foods available on school grounds and at school-sponsored activities will meet or exceed district nutrition standards which may not be less restrictive than federal guidelines. These guidelines apply to school meal program, vending machines, snack bars, school stores, concession stands, celebrations and meetings during the school day, and fundraising activities. Board directs Superintendent to implement policy based on recommendations of wellness committee and in compliance with national and state nutritional guidelines.

2008 – The NHDOE conducted an assessment of local wellness policy and required a copy of Epping's policy. The intent was to assess the school district policy for meeting the national requirements. The District Wellness Committee reviewed the State Wellness Policy Profile for Epping. The results were in line with the state. It was recommended that the District focus more on nutrition and prohibit food/physical activity as a reward. In response the Committee developed guidelines for schools based on a draft NH School Boards' Association Policy JLCF and began to implement these recommendations.

2009 – The NH School Boards’ Association revised Policy JLCF in conjunction with the NHDOE to meet the federal Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004 and NH Healthy School Best Coalition recommendations. The revised policy required all food items available through schools and school functions meet or exceed the standards. This included school food service meals and all foods/beverages sold outside the school food service program (vending machines, school stores, concessions, and fundraising) to students during the school day. Specific guidelines were included for fat, sugar, and sodium content. Portion sizes were also limited. The policy also includes guidelines for fundraising, rewards, snacks, school store, celebrations, extra-curricular meals, and classroom activities. Policy included compliance no later than the 2011-2012 School Year.

2010 - The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 was passed. It included Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization and other new regulations such as the following impacting schools and school meals program. These regulations became effective October 2010. (Copy of summary will be provided at meeting.)

- Direct certification of eligibility – foster children and children receiving Medicaid are directly certified for free meal eligibility – use Direct Certification software
- Policy – requires review of local policies on meal charges and provision of alternate meals for children who are without funds for a meal
- Milk – limit milk choices to fat free and low fat
- Water – make potable water available where meals are served
- Pricing – charge students for paid meal not using federal funds to offset the cost and all non-reimbursable foods by food service program must generate revenue to cover cost
- Nutrition standards – establishes nutrition standards for all food sold and served in schools at any time during the school day – increase amount of fruit and vegetables – offer more whole grains
- Public reporting – requires public reporting on wellness policies, nutrition quality of meals, etc.
- Commodities – directs USDA to purchase healthy commodities for schools
- Local food purchasing – encourage purchase of school food through local farms
- Applications – limits social security number to last 4 digits on free and reduced price application & requires independent review of all applications
- Safety – expands food safety requirements through school where program foods are stored, prepared, and served
- Training – requires education, training, and certification of all food service directors

2011 – The NHDOE notified districts of the federal law impacting food and nutrition services. It required only healthy foods during the school day including food and beverages outside of the school meals program. A revision to the NH Minimum School Standards was being recommended to meet these new guidelines. Proposed changes would require only healthy foods during the school day. This would

include food and beverages served outside of the school meals program as required by federal regulations.

In June the NHDOE requested that schools complete a survey on school wellness policies and implementation activities. School policies were also collected and compared with the requirements of the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004.

In July the NHDOE issued a memo specifically on local school wellness policies. The 2010 Reauthorization required that each district participating in the National School Lunch/Breakfast Program establish a local school wellness policy incorporating new requirements. In December the District received the results of the 2011 School Wellness Policy and Implementation Assessment using the following federal criteria.

1. Includes goals for nutrition education, physical activity and other school-based activities that are designed to promote student wellness in a manner that the local educational agency determines is appropriate.
2. Includes nutrition guidelines selected by the local educational agency for all foods available on each school campus under the local educational agency during the school day with the objectives of promoting student health and reducing childhood obesity.
3. Provides an assurance that guidelines for reimbursable school meals shall not be less restrictive than regulations and guidance issued by the Secretary of Agriculture pursuant to subsections (a) and (b) of section 10 of the Child Nutrition Act (42U.S.C. 1779) and section 9(f)(1) and 17(a) of the Richard B Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1758(f)(1), 1766(a)0, as those regulations and guidance apply to schools.
4. Establishes a plan for measuring implementation of the local wellness policy, including designation of one or more persons within the local educational agency or at each school, as appropriate, charged with operational responsibility for ensuring that the school meets the local wellness policy.
5. Involves parents, students, and representatives of the school food authority, the school board, school administrators, and the public in the development of the school wellness policy.

The school wellness policies met the criteria, but the district policy did not. The following recommendations were made.

- Include a goal for nutrition education
- Include a more specific goal for wellness activities
- Include a plan for measuring implementation of policy
- Designate one or more people with operational responsibility for ensuring that the school implements policy

This week an inquiry was made to the NHDOE regarding the status of the recommended revisions to the Public School Minimum Standards. On December 14, 2011 the following food and nutrition services revisions were adopted by the State Board. Included in the distributed standards are:

- Definitions on the definitions of nutrient dense foods, nutrient density of foods, nutrient targets, and portion size
- Written wellness policy required by Section 204 of the federal Child Nutrition and WIC 42 USC 1751.
- Written policy supporting the availability and distribution of healthy foods and beverages that create a healthy environment in all schools throughout all school buildings during the school day
 - Standards for nutrient dense foods and beverages for grade level needs elementary, middle and high school
 - Portion size for nutrient dense foods and beverages in schools which support the framework for healthier food choices in all school environments
 - Nutrition targets for foods and beverages made available outside the federally regulated meals program. The targets shall follow those developed by a nationally recognized research-based organization, such as but not limited to USDA, or as determined by the department to have standards equivalent to the USDA
 - Developmentally appropriate opportunities to learn food preparation skills that support nationally recognized research-based nutrition standards
 - Annual communication information about the policy and procedure and related curricula to the school community, including, but not limited to school staff, school board, parents and students.
- Any school choosing a standard for foods available at school which is not consistent with the USDA standard for Child Nutrition Programs, shall request a waiver from the bureau of nutrition programs and services. The bureau shall evaluate the alternative standards and shall grant the waiver if the alternative standards are determined to be equivalent to the nutrition standards of 7 CFR Part 210.

As noted above the District Committee will be reviewing results and making recommendations for a policy change. This action is further supported by the revised Minimum Standards.

APPLEBEE'S REQUEST – The Athletic Director has received an extension on Applebee's request for team sports photos. In talking with counsel school district policy legally covers such requests as students have no right to privacy in public. However, in this case student images will be used for business purposes. Requesting permission to release photos for Applebee's use would be appropriate.

OTHER –STUDENT DATA SOFTWARE – As reported at a previous meeting the NHDOE has notified the District that it will no longer be able to provide Performance Tracker and Assessment Builder free of

charge. Teachers and administrators were surveyed on their use of this software and Performance TechPaths another software used by the District. Performance Tracker and Assessment Builder are used to create assessments, house student results, and analyze student assessment results from the state test NECAP, the national test NWEA, and other district assessments. TechPaths is used to house curriculum. 57% reported that they would keep Performance Tracker and Assessment Builder while 5% reported that they would keep TechPaths. This is not a surprising result as the District has transitioned to a common curriculum format. Per these results the District will not be renewing the TechPaths license.

OUTSTANDING ITEMS

- Emergency shelter – December 22 emergency management meeting was cancelled and is being rescheduled for January 2012.
- Blizzard bags – The District Leadership Team is scheduled to discuss blizzard bags.
- Review of annual policy – Review is scheduled for after school board elections.
- EHS gym broadcasting – Approved by School Board. Status of ETV equipment to be determined.
- Emergency generator bids – On hold pending emergency shelter decision above.
- EES facilities work session – To be scheduled after first of the year.
- Natural gas advocacy – Responsibility and deadline to be determined.

NONPUBLIC –

- Parent meeting request
- Student tuition request
- Personnel

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