



POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE

Mike McDonough, Deputy Superintendent

Wednesday, January 22, 2025, 3:00 PM Central Office

Hilliard City School District
Operations Department

Committee Members

Brian Perry, Board of Education
Kelley Arnold, Board of Education
Melissa Swearingen, Treasurer/CFO
Mike McDonough, Deputy Superintendent
Jill Abraham, Assistant Superintendent
Stacie Raterman, Communications Director
Herb Higginbotham, Director of Elementary Education
Jacob Grantier, Director of Secondary Education

Jamie Lennox, Special Education Director
Hilary Sloat, Director of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
Matt Middleton, Principal Hilliard Darby HS
Katherine Hueter, Principal Hilliard Weaver MS
Matt Trombitas, Principal Hilliard Station Sixth Grade
Kevin Landon, Principal Avery Elementary
Monica Campana, Principal Washington Elementary
Angie Rader, HEA Representative

SUMMARY

This committee meets quarterly each school year. One of the objectives of this committee is to study each issue thoroughly making sure we have appropriate policies that reflect the mission and vision of the Hilliard City School District.

The Policy Review Committee considers all proposed new policies, revisions of current policies and/or rescinding of a current policy before being presented to the Superintendent for submission to the Board of Education. Two readings at two separate meetings shall normally be required before a new or revised policy may be adopted. Action to adopt will take place at a subsequent third meeting. However, the Board does have the option of voting for adoption at the second meeting.

The following is a summary of the issues and policies discussed at the meeting on January 22, 2025.

Public Participation

None

Review of Policies for Annual Review

IGBJ – Title I Programs

IGBL – Parent and Family Involvement in Education

Mike McDonough said every year we are asked to annually review our policies related to Title. There are no changes that we are suggesting, but we want to make sure that we can note when we put together those reports for ODEW that we have reviewed these policies.

Review of Policies/Regulations/Exhibits – as Requested by District Administration

IKF – Graduation Requirements

Mike McDonough said beginning with this year's sophomores, that would be the class of 2027, we are suggesting to remove the capstone requirement. Many years ago, the state was talking about adding a capstone requirement, so we got ahead of that and certainly have kept it in place but we feel like we are at a point in time

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that removing that graduation requirement is the best thing for us as a district moving forward. Jake, I know you provided several updates to the Board, I don't know if there is anything else to say other than that.

Jake Grantier said that's pretty much it. No, it doesn't really serve a purpose. We were trying to be proactive and then the state never followed through and went a different direction in terms of graduation requirements with seals.

Mike McDonough said my suggestion would be that we would add that chart that says "Beginning with the Class of 2027" and then Norma and I will just make a note to make sure that after the 25/26 school year, we bring this policy back to just clean it up and delete and all that good stuff. There wouldn't be any substantive changes, just clean up at that point.

Ms. Arnold said I have one recommendation suggestion just under where we have additional electives in both sections, we reference CBI, but we never define what CBI is for, it is Career Based Intervention. When we use acronyms, we know what it is but anybody reading might not.

Additional Information to Review – ODE/SBOE Restructuring Policy Updates

AFC-2 – Evaluation of Professional and Certificated Staff

GCB-2-R – Professional and Certificated Staff Contracts and Compensation Plans

IGBI – English Learners

IKEB-R – Acceleration

JHCC – Communicable Diseases

The next section of our agenda stems from the massive policy manual update that OSBA performed on our behalf. For those who are not aware, the State Board of Education and the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce have all sorts of moving pieces and parts in terms of their titles. OSBA took our entire policy manual and updated the references where they saw fit. They had a few policy exceptions, which is what we see in this next section, where our policies were different enough from the sample policies that they wanted us to have legal counsel review. We have since done that.

The first being around our evaluation of administrative staff, and we are actually going to change our policy to match what OSBA has in place, or we're suggesting that we match what OSBA has in place. The primary concern OSBA had with this policy is we were still referencing OPES 1.0 and we have since moved on from that. Working with Jessica, what you see before you in yellow she is good with. We made sure, checked with HR that it still meets all the requirements that we have in place throughout our current practice. Our suggestion would be to move forward with a similar version of OSBA's policy. If no objections we will go on to the second piece there, which is GCB-2-R.

Essentially, the feedback from our legal counsel is to just keep it as general as possible, and just stating that we're going to meet the criteria set forth by State Board of Education, because the three things we list there are actually slightly different than what's required for an alternative superintendent license. I am not sure that we would ever go down that route, but slightly different than that, so she is saying just abiding by State Board of Education rules is probably the best way to do that. What you see there in yellow, simplifying our policy and removing one, two and three, and then just add "adopts the required resolution of position verification and the individual meets all criteria set forth by the State Board of Education."

Ms. Arnold asked do you know where it differs? Again, we are not going to use it but...

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Mike McDonough answered the guideline states there are three criteria required by the State Board of Education, but it gets it wrong as to superintendents. It states for "2" that the individual must hold at least a baccalaureate degree. The requirement for alternative superintendent license is a master's degree.

Mike McDonough said under English Learners, again, our policy is different than what OSBA has. Certainly, we want to make sure that we reference the correct title for Ohio Department of Education and Workforce, but Jessica pointed out that she thought it pretty important to add the information around "including, but not limited to, reasonable accommodations". That was her suggestion to add to our policy, in addition to the title change that you see towards the bottom of the yellow page.

IKEB-R is a regulation. This is not a required regulation. It's not something that OSBA has a regulation for, but this is the process that we have developed as it relates to acceleration. On page three, the only thing that we're suggesting to do is at the very top there is to add "and Workforce".

Jake Grantier said Mike on page one, and I don't know how often this shows up in this policy, but we've kind of moved from RTI to MTSS. I don't know if that matters but it's in four and number five on page one.

Mike McDonough said alright, we will do a search for RTI and change it to MTSS.

Jamie Lennox said I also don't know if it matters, it references the building psychologist and I would say sometimes it is the building psychologist, but sometimes it's a school psychologist so I don't know, district or just put the school psychologist.

Mike McDonough asked where was that?

Jamie Lennox said there's a section titled Data Gathering by Building Psychologist.

Ms. Arnold said that title says Building Psychologist but the first word says school psychologist.

Mike McDonough said good catch.

Mr. Perry said probably also if we are going to redefine the acronyms then let's redefine the acronyms here too. We have IAT.

Mike McDonough said Communicable Diseases, no substantive changes. On page three adding "and workforce".

Ms. Arnold said I do have one suggestion, but it's not actually a policy change. It mentions in here about a communicable disease chart. Can we link that somewhere on our website so that people, nobody's going to read this but there's always that discussion of when do I send my kid to school or not? The chart tells you, but finding the chart is fun because I went and found it.

Stacie Raterman asked is it just on their website?

Ms. Arnold said yes, but you have to go three layers into the Department of Health so I think if we just linked it right on our attendance page, would probably a good place to, because we have it where we want people to attend, but if you think you're sick enough, maybe reference this chart.

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Review of Policies/Regulations/Exhibits – OSBA December 2024 PDQ

BDC – Executive Sessions

Mike McDonough said the last policy that we have to discuss today is around executive sessions. It really is a strikeout. That is all they are suggesting. If you look at number two, there are a couple of different ways that the board can enter into executive session as it relates to the purchase or sale of property. I've read this and read the executive summary several times. I'm still not quite sure that I fully understand the Supreme Court decision. But essentially it states that the statement "if premature disclosure of information would give an unfair competitive..." that applies to all three reasons, not just the last one. Some Board of Education got in hot water because they were applying it just to the last of the three. I don't think that impacts how we do business, whatsoever but we will add it and be compliant with the law.