

## **Minutes of the November 29<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Sub-committee on Policy**

Meeting was called to order by Dr. Fletcher at 6:35 p.m.

The roll was called and Dr. Fletcher and Dr. Finnerty were present. Attorney Clark was absent.

Dr. Francis' goal for the meeting was to get a recommendation regarding the Student Bullying policy and the Wellness policy.

I. The law, passed on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, requires that every school district in the Commonwealth have an anti-Bullying policy. The time line for passage of the policy is recommended (but not required) at the end of December.

Out of the two proposals submitted to the sub-committee, Dr. Francis recommended the Draft II policy – JICFB.

Ms. Denise Gaudette, representing the NBPS, gave the following reasons:

- a. clear language
- b. anonymous reporting by students
- c. no strict parameters – discretion of the administrators
- d. annual required training for staff

School Committee members voted for the Draft II policy with the following changes: under “Reporting” the wording was amended from “encourage” rather than “obligate” targets or bystanders to report the behaviors to school staff. The wording of the responsibility of the target was amended to “encourage” the target to inform school staff or parents to assist in stopping the cycle of bullying.” (This was changed from the following: “The target shall, however, not be subject to discipline for failing to report bullying.”)

Dr. Francis planned to have the School Department Attorneys review the plan and then submit it to the full School Committee.

II. Ms. Denise Gaudette then presented the proposed Wellness Policy, a comprehensive improvement in school safety and health. Sub-Committee members voted to delay a vote on this proposal until some corrections could be made.

III. The Discipline Committee's recommendations were covered in an overall statement developed by Dr. Francis and submitted as a guideline for developing policies and procedures in regards to Student Discipline. Her recommendations were discussed with members of the Discipline Committee, along with School Committee members, with the addition of the need for staff training in classroom management as a way of improving discipline, conduct, and control.

**Dr. Francis said she would come back to the next Policy sub-committee with guidelines for the district in order to maintain equity in disciplinary actions district wide.**

**The item of Employee Bullying was tabled in order to invite the school district's attorneys to the next meeting.**

**The issue of cell phones was raised again, but put off because of the lateness of the hour.**

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted by:**

**Marlene Pollock, School Committee Member**