Policy Committee Minutes–November 12, 2026

Committee Members present in person: Dr. Beth Knott, Melissa Calloway, Gidget Kidd, Mikayla Cassidy

Committee Members absent: Dr. Brad Thomas

Non-Committee Board Members present: Baxter Hammer, Adam Hurley

Staff Members present in person: Dr. Aaron Woody, Gayle Higgs, Michelle Harger, Grace Pennerat, Todd Bowyer, Sandra Spivey

Meeting called to order at 5:30 pm by Melissa Calloway.

Michelle Harger reviewed the following (20) policies:

- **1200 Governing Principle - Student Success**
  - Updates a policy title referenced.
- **1300 Governing Principle - Parental Involvement**
  - Updates two policy titles referenced.
- **1400 Governing Principle - School Initiatives**
  - Updates a policy title referenced.
- **1510/4200/7270 School Safety**
  - In D.5, adds the new statutory requirement to provide law enforcement and Department of Public Safety's Division of Emergency Management with access to school mapping data.
  - Adds the new statutory requirement to provide students with the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline and the NC Peer Warmline phone numbers.
  - Updates legal references.
  - Questions arose regarding how these would be shared. It was shared that as part of the new legislation, specific locations are provided where the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline and the NC Peer Warmline phone numbers should be posted.
- **1700 Governing Principle - Removal of Barriers**
  - Removes reference to two repealed policies.
- **1742/5060 Responding to Complaints**
  - Updates a policy title referenced.
  - Updates the cross references.
- **1760/7280 Prohibition Against Retaliation**
  - Updates the language throughout to more clearly address G.S. 126A art. 14.
  - Updates legal references.
  - It was presented to revise the title listed in Section 2.D) from "the assistant superintendent of human resources" to the "Chief Human Resources Officer.
- **2300 Board Meetings**
  - Updates terminology.
  - Adds requirement that the schedule of regular board meetings be posted on the school system's website.
- **2320 Compliance with the Open Meetings Law**
  - Adds a reference to the definition of "official meetings" in policy 2310.
  - Updates cross references.
- **3420 Student Promotion and Accountability**
  - Changes language in E.2 and N based on statutory changes.

- It was proposed to revise wording in Section K to read, "As a team, the principal, after consulting with the district and school professional staff, along with the student's parents, may determine that skipping a grade level is appropriate.

- **4328 Gang-Related Activity**
  - Updates the definition of criminal gang to match that in state law.
- **4351 Short-Term Suspension**
  - Updates a term based on state law changes.
- **4400 Attendance**
  - Revises the language throughout to align with the recently updated SBE policies and state law.
    - *The excused absences listed in this policy are in state law and/or 16 N.C.A.C. 6E .0102 as the valid/lawful excuses for temporary nonattendance of a student at school. 16 N.C.A.C. 6E .0102 also allows LEAs to excuse the temporary or occasional absence of a student for other reasons in accordance with policies adopted by the board, provided that the student is currently in membership. The board may add to the list of excused absences in this policy other reasons for which absences may be excused.*
  - Updates legal references.
  - Updates cross references.
- **4720 Surveys of Students**
  - Based on new federal guidance, requires written parental consent for all protected topic surveys.
    - *In its August letter to SEAs and LEAs explaining their obligations under the federal student privacy laws, the U.S. Department of Education Student Privacy Policy Office (SPPO) took the position that parental written consent is needed for all protected topic surveys. Previously, the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) was understood to require parental consent only for protected topic surveys that were funded by the U.S. Department of Education. N.C. state law further required parental permission for all protected topic surveys, regardless of funding sources, except that parental opt-out was allowed for surveys given as part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System or National Youth Tobacco Survey or the North Carolina Youth Tobacco Survey. Based on the SPPO's new interpretation of the PPRA, this policy now requires parental opt-in rather than opt-out for surveys given as part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System or National Youth Tobacco Survey or the North Carolina Youth Tobacco Survey.*
  - Updates a policy title referenced.
  - Updates the cross references.
- **5028/6130/7267 Cardiac Emergency Response**
  - Updates the title of the policy.
  - Adds a new Section A about cardiac emergency response plans.
  - Updates the language in Section B to align with the new statutory requirements.
    - *New G.S. 115C-375.6 requires that the board develop a cardiac emergency response plan (CERP) that addresses the appropriate response of school personnel to incidents involving individuals experiencing sudden cardiac arrest or a similar life-threatening emergency while on school grounds. The board must review and update the CERP annually.*
  - Updates legal references.
  - Updates other resources.

    - Questions arose regarding how our district purchases these for schools. It was shared that this has been a joint effort between grants and local funds.
- **5070/7350 Public Records - Retention, Release, and Disposition**
    - Adds school risk management plans, school mapping data, anonymous safety tip line information, volunteer information, and applicant criminal history as information not considered to be public record.
    - Changes some formatting.
    - Updates legal references.
- **5120 Relationship with Law Enforcement**
    - Adds school mapping data to the information to be provided to law enforcement.
    - Updates legal references.
- **6140 Student Wellness**
    - Changes the language in D.3 for consistency with SBE policy.
    - Change the language in E.6, removing the word “reward” to align with our practices.
- **6430 Purchasing Requirements for Equipment, Materials, and Supplies**
    - Removes references to the repealed historically underutilized business policy.
- **6525 Instructional Materials Services**
    - Updates terminology based on state law changes.
    - Updates legal references.
    - Updates cross references.

Meeting adjourned at 5:48 pm by Melissa Calloway.