



## **New Hope-Solebury School District Policy Committee Meeting Minutes**

February 21, 2017

7:30PM – Upper Elementary School LGI Room

### **Attendance**

- **School Board** –Adrienne Deussing, Mark Cowell, Doug McDonough
- **Administration** - Steve Yanni
- **Committee Members** – Wenmei Gi, Meg Thompson, Hita Shah, Ronak Wijhwani, Stan Marcus
- **Presenters** - None
- **Public** – Juda Bennett

Mrs. Deussing called the meeting to order at 7:30PM.

The minutes from the January 12, 2017, Policy Committee meeting were approved.

### **Old Business**

The committee did a second reading of the following Board Operating Guidelines:

- 004.1—Code of Ethics—It was suggested that we replace our version of 004.1 with what PSBA offers as their most recent version of the Code of Ethics. This will be approved at the March board meeting. Board members will read and sign the Code of Ethics at least on a yearly basis.
- 011—Principles of Governance and Leadership—No changes are being recommended at this time, and no additional action is needed.

The committee did third reading of the following policy:

- 255—Gender Explanisve and Transgender Students
  - Dr. Yanni reviewed the Federal Guidance offered by the Obama Administration in May 2016, which was the catalyst to the policy.
  - Dr. Yanni reviewed the purpose of the policy as well as the definitions contained therein. It was noted that only the terms referenced in the policy are included on the list. As gender studies expand, this policy will most likely need to be reviewed on a yearly basis.
  - Dr. Yanni reviewed the guidelines, which articulate how the policy will be carried out and enforced.
  - The majority of the discussion focused on who would have access to a student’s transgender status. This information is private and protected under FERPA. Only essential staff would know the student’s status.
  - The committee discussed how name changes would occur. Name changes would occur as a result of the parent/guardian signing an affidavit or through the legal process of changing one’s name.
  - Restroom and locker room usage was discussed at length. Per the policy, students will use the restroom and locker room of their gender identity. All

gender restrooms are available and privacy curtains will be available in the locker rooms.

- Overnight trips were discussed. Should a transgender student participate in an overnight trip, the policy directs the actions to be taken.
- Dr. Yanni noted that Mr. Malone, Director of Education, will be responsible for continuing staff development on the topics of gender and transgender studies.
- The policy will be moved forward for approval at the March board meeting.

**Public Comment** – Public comment was part of the ongoing discussion through the meeting as it related to policy 255.

Mrs. Deussing adjourned the meeting at 8:45PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Steve Yanni  
Superintendent