

MEETING OF THE POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE
Monday, November 20, 2017
5:30 p.m.
Superintendent's Conference Room, ARMS

AGENDA

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| 1. Call to Order & Select Chair | 5:30 p.m. |
| 2. Approve Minutes | 5:35 p.m. |
| • October 16, 2017 | |
| 3. Public Comment | 5:40 p.m. |
| 4. Policies for Discussion | 5:45 p.m. |
| • BEAA: Superintendency Union 26 (Vote to Send for First Reading) | |
| • AAA: Amherst School District Legal Status | |
| • AAB: Pelham School District Legal Status | |
| • AAC: Amherst-Pelham Regional School District Legal Status | |
| • BDFA: School Committees: School Councils | |
| • ACE: Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Handicap | |
| 5. Next Meeting | 6:20 p.m. |
| 6. Other topics not reasonably considered by the Chair 48 hours in advance of the meeting | |
| 7. Adjourn | 6:30 p.m. |

MINUTES OF THE POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE

October 16, 2017

Superintendent's Conference Room, ARMS

IN ATTENDANCE:

Emily Marriott, Chair

Phoebe Hazzard

Debbie Westmoreland

Stephen Sullivan

Since the Policy Committee was meeting for the first time since it was reorganized after elections, there was no Chair. The committee started business at 6:30 p.m. Ms. Hazzard moved to appoint Ms. Marriott as Chair. Ms. Westmoreland seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Hazzard then moved to approve the minutes of March 20, 2017. Ms. Westmoreland seconded and the motion was approved with Ms. Marriott abstaining. Discussion turned to Policy BEAA School Committee: Superintendency Union #26 School Committee Meetings. The subcommittee agreed to several wording changes; however, Ms. Marriott noted that this policy should not really be considered by the Regional School Committee since it involves only the Amherst and Pelham School Committees. By general consensus, it was agreed that Ms. Westmoreland will make the changes discussed and send the updated policy to the Policy Subcommittee for review. At that point, the policy will be sent to the Amherst and Pelham School Committees for consideration and approval.

The committee discussed which policies to consider at the next meeting. Ms. Westmoreland noted that Juna Pierre, the consultant who worked with the district leadership team this summer, met with Doreen Cunningham, Assistant Superintendent, to review policies for equity. There are several that Ms. Cunningham would like to meet with the Policy Subcommittee to review. It was agreed that Ms. Cunningham will be invited to the next meeting for this purpose. It was also agreed that the next agenda will include the following policies for discussion:

- AAA: Amherst School District Legal Status
- AAB: Pelham School District Legal Status
- AAC: Amherst-Pelham Regional School District Legal Status
- BDFA: School Committees: School Councils
- ACE: Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Handicap

It was agreed that meetings will be scheduled at 5:30 p.m. on Mondays. The next two meeting dates will be November 20 and December 18. Ms. Hazzard moved to adjourn at 6:20 p.m. Mr. Sullivan seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,
Debbie Westmoreland

Draft Policy – NEW POLICY

AMHERST PUBLIC SCHOOLS, PELHAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, AND AMHERST-PELHAM REGIONAL DISTRICT POLICY MANUAL

BEAA
(Amherst and Pelham)

SCHOOL COMMITTEE: SUPERINTENDENCY UNION #26 SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Superintendency Union #26 School Committee is a joint committee of the Amherst School Committee and the Pelham School Committee existing for the purpose of employing a Superintendent. The joint committee is the agent of each participating town. The Union #26 Committee is composed of the three officers of the Pelham School Committee and the three officers of the Amherst School Committee.

The Union 26 committee will meet annually, after completion of annual elections in both towns, at a time and place agreed upon by the Chairs of the two towns' School Committees. The Union 26 committee will organize by electing a Chair and a Vice-Chair.

The Superintendency Union #26 will share a Superintendent with the Amherst-Pelham Regional School System. The Regional School Committee and Union #26 School Committee will jointly employ a Superintendent. Payment of the Superintendent will be apportioned between the Amherst, Pelham and Regional districts based on enrollments.

LEGAL REF: MGL 71:61, 71:63

~~Region Voted to Approve:~~
Amherst Voted to Approve:
Pelham Voted to Approve:
Effective Date:

AMHERST SCHOOL DISTRICT LEGAL STATUS

The legal basis for public education in the town is vested in the will of the people as expressed in the Constitution of Massachusetts and state statutes pertaining to education.

Under the General Laws of Massachusetts,

"...Every town shall maintain...a sufficient number of schools for the instruction of all children who may legally attend a public school therein."

The public educational system for students in kindergarten through grade six of Amherst structurally is a department of the town operated under laws pertaining to education and under regulations of the Massachusetts Board of Education. The area served by the Amherst Public Schools is coterminous with the Town of Amherst.

**AMHERST PUBLIC SCHOOLS, PELHAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL,
AND AMHERST-PELHAM REGIONAL DISTRICT POLICY MANUAL**

AAB (Formerly 100.02)

PELHAM SCHOOL DISTRICT LEGAL STATUS

The legal basis for public education in the town is vested in the will of the people as expressed in the Constitution of Massachusetts and state statutes pertaining to education.

Under the General Laws of Massachusetts,

"...Every town shall maintain...a sufficient number of schools for the instruction of all children who may legally attend a public school therein."

The public educational system for students in kindergarten through grade six of Pelham structurally is a department of the town operated under laws pertaining to education and under regulations of the Massachusetts Board of Education. The area served by the Pelham Public Schools is coterminous with the Town of Pelham.

Pelham Voted to Approve: 12/7/82
Effective Date: 12/7/82

**AMHERST PUBLIC SCHOOLS, PELHAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL,
AND AMHERST-PELHAM REGIONAL DISTRICT POLICY MANUAL**

AAC (formerly 100.03)

AMHERST-PELHAM SCHOOL DISTRICT LEGAL STATUS

The legal basis for public education for students in grades seven through twelve in the four towns of Amherst, Pelham, Leverett and Shutesbury is vested in the Amherst-Pelham Regional School District as formed by the attached agreement in accordance with Section 15 of Chapter 71 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth.

Region Voted to Approve: 10/26/82
Effective Date: 10/26/82

SCHOOL COMMITTEES: SCHOOL COUNCILS

1. OVERALL PURPOSE OF SCHOOL COUNCILS

The Council improves student outcomes by uniting, in responsible participation, those closest to the teaching-learning relationship. Through the development of shared vision and planning, the Council creates a school environment which unites all members of the school community in a sense of belonging, commitment, and growth.

2. ORGANIZATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

Councils assist principals by reviewing the school building budget and developing the school improvement plan. Councils may also take on other responsibilities as granted by the local school committee. Councils' school improvement plans are submitted to the local school committee for review and approval.

3. MEMBERSHIP

Each principal may define the size and composition of the council, subject to the approval of the Superintendent and School Committee of a representative process for selection. The following conditions must be met:

- a. The Council shall include the principal, teachers, parents, other community members and, for the high school, at least one student representative. Parent, teacher, and student members are to be elected by their peers.
- b. The number of parent representatives must be equal to the number of teachers who serve on the Council plus the principal.
- c. Not more than 50% of the council shall be made up of members who are not parents, teachers, students, or staff at the school.
- d. The council should be broadly representative of the racial and ethnic diversity of the school building and community.
- e. The principal and another member elected by the council from its membership will co-chair the council.

4. COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITIES

The council assists principals in:

- a. Adoption of educational goals for the school that are consistent with local educational policies and statewide student performance standards.
- b. Identifying the educational needs of students attending the school.
- c. Review of the annual school building budget proposal.
- d. Formulation of a school improvement plan.
- e. High School Council will review student handbook each spring to consider changes in disciplinary policy to take effect the following school year.

5. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANS

The School Committee will annually review and approve the School Improvement Plan for each school. School Improvement Plans must include:

- a. An assessment of the impact of class size on student performance; of student to teacher ratios; and of student to other supportive adult resources.
- b. A scheduled plan for reducing class size, if deemed necessary.
- c. Professional development for the school's staff and the allocation of any professional development funds in the school budget. The plan must address the need for teachers' professional development on second language acquisition and on working with culturally and linguistically diverse student populations.
- d. Enhancement of parental involvement in the life of the school.
- e. School safety and discipline.

- f. Establishment of a school environment characterized by tolerance and respect for all groups.
(LOCAL REQUIREMENT: Each school improvement plan must include at least one objective that addresses the BAMSS goals.)
- g. Extra-curricular activities.
- h. Means for meeting within the regular education programs at the school, the diverse learning needs of as many children as possible, including children with special needs currently assigned to separate programs.
- i. Any further subjects the principal, in consultation with the school council, shall consider appropriate.

LEGAL REF: MGL 71:38Q, 71:59C

Approved 11/94

**AMHERST PUBLIC SCHOOLS, PELHAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL,
AND AMHERST-PELHAM REGIONAL DISTRICT POLICY MANUAL**

ACE (formerly 130.07)

NONDISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF ~~DISABILITY HANDICAP~~

The School Committees believe that discrimination against a qualified ~~handicapped person~~ solely on the basis of ~~a disability handicap~~ is unfair and that qualified ~~handicapped~~ persons with a disability should be in the mainstream of life in a school community. It therefore strongly endorses and supports Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1992 and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and ~~their~~ regulations. Under ~~these~~ acts a school system:

1. May not discriminate against qualified ~~handicapped~~ persons in any aspect of school employment solely on the basis of ~~a disability handicap~~.
2. Must make all programs and activities accessible and open to qualified ~~handicapped~~ persons with a disability.
3. Must provide free, appropriate education at elementary and secondary levels, including non-academic and extracurricular services and activities, to eligible ~~handicapped~~ persons with a disability.
4. May not exclude any qualified ~~handicapped~~ person ~~solely on the basis of handicap~~ from participation in any school program or activity solely on the basis of a disability.

Accordingly, employees of this school system will comply with the law and its regulations to ensure nondiscrimination on the basis of ~~disability handicap~~.

LEGAL REF: Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504
Education for All Handicapped Children Act of 1975
M.G.L. 71B: 1 et seq. (Chapter 766 of the Acts of 1972)
Title II, Americans with Disabilities Act of 1992
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
Board of Education Chapter 766 Regulations, adopted 10/74, as amended through
3/28/78

Region Voted to Approve: 12/21/82
Amherst Voted to Approve: 1/4/83
Pelham Voted to Approve: 1/11/83

Effective Date:12/21/82