

## **Policy Committee Meeting – Regular Session - May 12, 2025**

**Committee Members Present:** Committee Chair, Jerry Metcalf, and Member Chaz Heinz.

**Not present:** Kim Johnson, Committee Member

**Others Present:** Joshua Hetfeld, District Administrator

Jerry Metcalf, Committee Chair, called the Policy Committee Meeting of May 12, 2025 to order at 12:00 p.m.

Joshua Hetfeld, District Administrator, began the meeting by indicating the District Administration staff had completed their initial review and mark ups of Neola Policy templates for Series 5000 – Students, and Series 9000 – Relations. This included several specific policies that were reviewed and updated by the district's School Nurse, Katelyn Hughes.

The Policy Committee began their review of policy Series 5000 – Students. During this meeting, the Policy Committee completed reviews of policies 5111 (Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Students) through policy 5421 (Grading), and left off at policy 5430 (Class Rank). Several minor changes were recommended to multiple policies after discussion and in some cases, comparison to existing local district policies. The discussion also included a discussion of what Neola policy templates the committee recommended not adopting.

*Policy 5136 – Personal Communication Devices:* The committee discussed adopting the Neola template language for usage of Personal Communication Devices at the High School level. This would be a change from current district policy. The committee agreed that the recommendation should be presented to the teacher's book study group that recently reported findings from the publication by Jonathan Haidt, "The Anxious Generation: How the Great Rewiring of Childhood Is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness". The committee also confirmed that wireless or cellular connected smart watches are also included in the definition of PCD's per Neola policy 0100 (Definitions).

*Policy 5200 – Attendance:* The committee discussed including revised and additional language to policy 5200 (Attendance) to make it more consistent with existing district policy 431 (Compulsory Student Attendance), and the Student Handbook. Specifically, the board recommended adding the district's current senior attendance policy and post-secondary school visit policy.

*Policy 5330 – Administration of Medication/Emergency Care & Policy 5512 – Use of Tobacco and Nicotine By Students:* The committee discussed the need to ensure any policy updates include language consistent American Indian Policies and Procedures.

*Policy 5421 – Grading:* The committee discussed the recommendation to update the Neola policy template to include language consistent with existing school policy 345.1 (Grading Systems) and Student Handbook, specifically including weighted grades for accelerated classes and optional pass/fail for electives under certain circumstances.

The Policy Committee meeting of May 12, 2025 was adjourned at 4:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jerry Metcalf  
Policy Committee Chair  
School Board Director