

Policy Committee Meeting- Regular Session – June 11, 2025

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

Not Present: Kim Johnson, Committee Member

Others Present: Josh Hetfeld, District Administrator

Jerry Metcalf, Committee Chair, called the Policy Committee Meeting of June 11, 2025 to order at 2:33 PM.

Josh Hetfeld, District Administrator indicated that the Policy Committee Meeting notes from the previous Policy Committee Meeting conducted on May 21, 2025 were still in progress, but that the committee had completed initial review of remaining policy Series 5000 – Students.

The Policy Committee reviewed and is recommending a final reading and vote on Policy 5411 – Third Grade Promotion and Retention, as required as part of ACT20 legislation at the next regular School Board Meeting.

Additionally, the Policy Committee received a written review from the Public Consultant Group (PCG) on the policy Series 5000 – Students. The PCG informed the Policy Committee when local peer school districts did not adopt specific Neola template policies. Unless otherwise noted below, the Policy Committee recommends adopting the proposed policies as they reflect existing practices of the district or are considered best practice. Several minor revisions were recommended following a review of the PCG comments and are summarized as follows:

Policy 5114 - Nonimmigrant Students and Visitor Programs: The PCG confirmed that Spooner does not have this policy and asked whether there is a policy addressing immigrant students (legal and illegal). The Policy Committee believes Policy 5111 – Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Students addresses this issue and recommends no change at this time.

Policy 5130 – Withdrawal/Dropout from School: The PCG confirmed other local peer districts do not use sections A – F. The Committee believes that the sections A – F represent Webster’s existing practices and recommends retaining them in this policy.

Policy 5136 – Personal Communication Devices: The PCG inquired about requirements for the elementary school and the status and plans for the 2025-2026 Parent/Student Handbook. The current draft policy does include a section on requirements for the elementary school may have been overlooked because the section header appears on page one. The Committee recommends revising each school’s 2025-2026 Parent/Student Handbook to align to the new policy system.

Policy 5200 – Attendance: The PCG asked if the School Attendance Officers have been designated. The Policy Committee recommends that the School Attendance Officers to be designated in Parent/Student Handbook for each school, consistent with existing practice.

Policy 5223 – Absences for Religious Instruction: The PCG inquired if the Student Management system is defined and controlled. The Webster School District utilizes the Skyward Employee and Student Management System.

Policy 5410 – Promotion, Placement, and Retention: The PCG noted that terms such as “Proficiency” and “Basic” may not align to the new 2024 DPI standardized academic assessment rating categories. The Policy Committee determined most uses of the term “Proficiency” is not in the context of standardized academic assessment but used as a general term. However, the Policy Committee is recommending changing the term “Basic” in the first sentence under the Option 1 section, and changing the word “Minimal” to “lowest” in the second sentence, as those sentences do relate to Wisconsin statewide testing.

Policy 5451.02 – Technical Excellence Higher Education Scholarships: Following the same concerns raise in Policy 5410, the Policy Committee reviewed Policy 5451.02 and found the uses of the term “Proficiency” is not in the context of standardized academic assessment but used as a more general term. No changes are recommended.

Policy 5500 – Student Code of Classroom Conduct: The PCG asked about the Parent/Student Handbook. The Policy Committee’s recommendation is that the 2025-2026 Parent/Student Handbook for each school will be revised to align to the new policy system and include references to specific new policies where appropriate.

Policy 5515 – Student Use of Motor Vehicles: The PCG asked about the use of ATV’s and if that needed to be in the policy. The Policy Committee reviewed this previously and concluded that there is no legal way for a minor to drive an ATV to the

Middle/High School and therefore recommends not including ATV's in the policy. The Policy Committee further recommends including this update and clarification in the 2025-2026 Parent/Student Handbook.

Policy 5517 – Student Anti-Harassment: The PCG inquired about the use of the word “unlawful”. Based on legal consultation, the Policy Committee recommends retaining the word “unlawful”. The Policy Committee recommends including this update and alignment to the new policy in the 2025-2026 Parent/Student Handbook.

Policy 5515.01 – Bullying: The PCG noted the overlap with Policy 5517 – Student Anti-Harassment and the discussion of harassment in the Bullying policy. The Policy Committee recognizes that bullying can be considered repeated harassment and should exist as a separate policy per DPI guidelines, but recommend a reference to Policy 5517 – Student Anti-Harassment. The Policy Committee further recommends including this update and alignment to the new policy in the 2025-2026 Parent/Student Handbook.

Policy 5540 – The Schools and Governmental Agencies: The PCG asked if the administration maintains the lead role when law enforcement is called for assistance. The Policy Committee finds that sections A.3. and A.4 identify scenarios where law enforcement would have the main responsibility for the investigation and assure that the constitutional protect rights of the student are respected. Additionally, the Policy Committee recommends reviewing and updating its shared agreement or Memorandum of Understanding with local municipalities and/or law enforcement to ensure alignment with this Policy.

Policy 5780 – Student/Parent Rights: After extended discussions over multiple Policy Committee meetings comparing the preferred language of existing Policy 333 – The Parental Rights in Relation to District Programs/Activities and Student Privacy with the proposed policy, the Policy Committee is recommending tabling the revision of Policy 5780 – Student/Parent Rights until the Policy Committee can review policy Series 2000 – Program, including Policy 2416 – Student Privacy and Parental Access to Information to ensure the existing preferred practices are captured in the appropriate new policies. The Policy Committee further recommends an update to the 2025-2026 Parent/Student Handbook that summarizes parent/student rights and includes references to all the related new policies.

Policy 5855 – Student Attendance at School Events: The PCG confirmed that Spooner does not have this policy and that Minong and Superior have no grade requirements. The Policy Committee recommends the proposed policy that reflects Webster's current practice that has been developed and deliberated over the years.

Upon completion of the policy Series 5000 – Students, the Policy Committee completed their review of the policy Series 9000 – Relations. Only very few and minor proposed revisions were discussed.

The Policy Committee meeting of June 11, 2025 was adjourned at 6:35 PM

Respectfully submitted,



Jerry Metcalf

Policy Committee Chair
School Board Director