

**GUILFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE
TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 2006
LATHROP HOUSE, 55 PARK STREET, GUILFORD, CONNECTICUT**

1. Call to Order

Chairman Cartier called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. Board members present were Cynthia Cartier, Barbara Dudley, and Bill Bloss. Administrators present were Thomas Forcella, Anne Keene, and Catherine Walker. Health Advisory Committee member present was Marlene Schwartz.

2. Agenda

The Committee began with an update of the status of the Wellness Policy by Chairman Cartier. This included discussion of the Public Forum, which occurred on May 31, 2006, and Lakes and Cox PTO meetings. At Lakes, parental concerns included fundraisers, which would be allowed under the policy provided they took place after school. During the Cox PTO meeting, Chairman Cartier noted greater parental concerns and referred to her memo dated June 7, 2006.

Although the community appears supportive of limited snacks/birthday food celebrations, greater concern has been brought forth with respect to the following:

1. Curriculum related food events.
2. Field trips.
3. Life Skills program at Adams and G.H.S.
4. Colonial garden at Jones.
5. Lunch not provided by food service on 5 half days during the year including last day of school.

The committee further discussed the following:

1. Language of the policy is very specific – may be better to have the policy more general with direction to the administration to draft a regulation dealing with specifics;
2. Field trip permission slips should address food issues as appropriate.
3. Allowing curriculum related events and have language in the policy providing for parental contribution. The administration felt that the policy should be broad enough to allow for the activity this year. During 06-07, they will collect data on curriculum-related events containing food items.
4. Also, will need to allow for ½ days school issue where no lunch is service. Contract will have to be reviewed. This will be done by Dr. Forcella and/or Dr. Keene with Jim Saisa.

5. To achieve the overall goal of creating an environment of wellness, the Committee agreed that they would eliminate any daily snack/birthday celebrations involving food distribution, even purchasing from the food service. As expressed by the teachers, this reduces time for instruction and curriculum. However, there would be language allowing for curriculum related events and certain celebrations, i.e, Thanksgiving events.
6. Committee also wanted to encourage community gardening as done at Jones Elementary School and language was recommended to be included.
7. A list of acceptable foods was discussed to be drafted by HAC and provided as a handout to parents beginning of school year and/or attached to the policy.
8. Safety issues – concern for allergenicity and safety in the handling of food that comes into the schools is an issue.
9. Language in the Policy establishing Health Advisory Committee as a committee under the guidance and for the support of the administration.
10. Language in the policy needs to include reference to state and federal law. May want a preamble referencing federal law requirement.
11. Some minor changes may need to be made regarding the physical fitness portion of the policy however, overall, does not present issues as nutrition portion of the policy has.

The Committee agreed that Cartier and Bloss will work on a redraft including all concerns presented to date.

The Committee agreed that another Public Forum will take place to be scheduled in July. The Committee will strive to present the revised policy to the full BOE for passage either the end of July or August.

The next Policy Committee meeting will take place on July 10, 2006, at 6:30. The Committee will begin discussion and review of Section 3000.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Cynthia Cartier