

Providence Public School District

797 Westminster Street

Providence, RI 02903

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 2, 2025

1.0 Convene Meeting

1.1 Call to Order – 5:30 PM

Chairwoman Heidi Silverio called the meeting to order at 5:37 PM

Board Members in Attendance: Heidi Silverio, Anjel Newmann and Miche'le Fontes

Also in Attendance: Scott Sutherland, Carina Pinto De Chacon, Herman James, Linda Savastano, Dr. Nkoli Onye, Jennifer Efflandt, Lindsay Paiva, Aubrey Johnson

1.2 Welcome & Introductions

At this time Chairwoman Silverio, Vice-President Newmann & Secretary Fontes introduced themselves to everyone in attendance.

After the introduction by the Board Members everyone in attendance was given the opportunity to introduce themselves as well.

1.3 Overview of Meeting Objectives

2.0 Approve Agenda

2.1 Approval of Agenda as Presented

**A Motion was taken to Approve the Agenda as presented
MSV – Fontes, Newmann (3-0) MOTION APPROVED**

3.0 Policy & Planning

3.1 Review of Proposed Policy Framework

1) Presentation of the proposed policy framework – Chairwoman Silverio & Scott Sutherland

Chairwoman Silverio and Scott Sutherland discussed the Policy Framework and the procedures of how to review policies, update, and bring them forward for adoption.

Vice-President Newmann - Spoke about reviewing existing policies and updating the most outdated policies first. She also spoke about reviewing some of the policies and how some have not been updated since 2007. She also discussed the core work of local control and creating policies that are equitable across the District.

Also, Visions and Values of the Board and how important it is to review these policies and bring them up to date.

Dr. Nkoli Onye who oversees the Equity Department for the District spoke about the Equity Lens Tools and how she used these tools to create and edit the Racial Ethnic Policy which was passed in 2023. RIDE has developed an equity lens tool and I will share with you what I used when updating the Equity Policy.

Chairwoman Silverio – I think we should have student voice and a student seat on the board.

Secretary Fontes – Scott Sutherland explained to us how the policies are reviewed and revised. He also suggested homework to review policies.

Vice-President Newmann – Asked about policies that need to be updated.

Carina Pinto De Chacon – Mentioned Default Policies and what needs to be Prioritized and updated. There are polices created in 2002 that need to be revised and the departments who brought them forth should be responsible for the Policy alignment.

Dr. Nkoli Onye – Some policies are hard to find on the website and it's difficult for parents to find them. I think they should be prioritized in alphabetical order.

Chairwoman Silverio – Parents need to feel power or ownership of policies. They should be able to look them up and easily find them when they need to.

2) Committee discussion and feedback

3.2 Update on Policy for the Development & Introduction of Policies, Regulations & Resolution

3.3 Committee Discussion & Next Steps

Chairwoman Silverio – We are working on a Policy Frame will be anywhere from 2 to 5 pages and we need everyone’s input.

- 1) Open floor for additional policy priorities and concerns
- 2) Establishment of next meeting date and action items

Chairwoman Silverio – Due to scheduling issues, our next meeting will be scheduled for 5-13-25

4.0 Adjourn

4.1 Adjourn Meeting – 6:24 PM

**A Motion was made at this time to adjourn the meeting
MSV – Newmann, Fontes (3-0) MOTION APPROVED**