

TOLLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES MAY 13, 2015

Members present: Kathy Gorsky, chair; Steve Clark

Administrators present: Dr. Walt Willett, Superintendent; Carolyn Tyl, Director of Curriculum

As there were not enough members for a quorum present at the meeting, many topics on the agenda were tabled until the next policy committee meeting.

Carolyn Tyl gave the committee a presentation on the Next Generation Science Standards. All attendees gave feedback to be submitted to the state board of education.

The committee next heard Dr. Willett's report regarding use of state troopers at school events. He spoke with officials from Ellington who informed him that state troopers are rarely used at such events, and that schools in Ellington have the discretion to decide when a trooper is needed. Their rule of thumb is that when more than 100 people are expected to attend an event, the state trooper's office will offer a trooper. However, the schools often choose to hire constables who are much more affordable than state troopers.

Finally, the committee discussed temperature requirements for public school buildings. The state does not require that schools provide or run air conditioning; there is no maximum allowable temperature. However, the teachers' union has expressed concern that TIS and TMS are often too hot. Our agreement with Honeywell does not include the use of air conditioning in these buildings except in special education rooms. In addition, the use of air conditioning by groups who use the buildings after school hours may raise costs of running our geothermal system beyond the negotiated price with Honeywell. The committee may have to consider the possibility of charging groups who are using the school buildings for their use of the air conditioning. Alternatively, we may have to simply limit the use of the air conditioning in the buildings.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Gorsky