

Manchester Public Schools
Board of Education
Policy Committee
Minutes
February 8, 2021
Virtual

The meeting began at 5:45 PM.

Members Present: Mark Gundersen, Scott Hughes, Darryl Thames Sr.
Others Present: Matt Geary

The members discussed the [MPS Equity Policy](#) along with the Equity Policy Considerations document. The Superintendent will add a question regarding the fiscal impact of the change (What is the fiscal impact of the change? added to question2) and the policy will be moved to the full Board of Education for a first reading.

The members reviewed several area district policies on electronic devices at the middle and high school levels, including the policy and practices of MPS. A summary of policies is [attached](#). At the middle school, devices are not to be used during the school day. At the high school devices can be used in common spaces and for educational purposes in classrooms. The Superintendent will invite a cross section of parents, students, and staff to the next policy meeting to discuss the use of devices at MHS.

The committee reviewed the [Board of Education Liaison](#) section of Community Relations Policy #1121. Given the Covid-19 pandemic, Board members' interactions with school communities will likely look different than initially designed. Board members are asked to reach out to school principals by phone or email to set up a brief check in and discuss how you might engage with the school community.

The cost for School Resource Officers (SRO) is incorporated into the 2021-22 Board of Education budget. The Board funds half of the cost for SROs. The Board will engage in future discussions with the Board of Directors regarding SROs at an appropriate time.

The Superintendent shared some areas where legislative action may be needed for 2021-22 both due to the continuation of the pandemic and if we wish to continue some new approaches (such as virtual snow days) that have been utilized this year. The areas include student attendance, school calendar - 180 days / 900 hours, transportation, student discipline, and certification.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45.

Respectfully Submitted,

Matt Geary