

**CITY OF PORTSMOUTH
LEGAL DEPARTMENT
MEMORANDUM**

DATE: MARCH 6, 2017
TO: PORTSMOUTH SCHOOL BOARD
FROM: POLICY COMMITTEE
RE: MARCH 3, 2017 MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Leslie Stevens, Ann Walker, Steve Zadravec, and Kathleen Dwyer

Others Present: Paulette Rouse

Policies Considered:

Graduation Requirements (IKF)

After the February 14 School Board meeting, Ann Mayer had requested clarification as to whether passing a United States citizenship test was required for graduation. Kathleen explained that she checked Senate Bill 157-FN, the enabling act that ultimately was reflected in RSA 189:11 that the legislature “encourages all New Hampshire high school students to take a United States Citizenship and Immigration Services test.” What is required by RSA 189:11 is regular courses of instruction in the history, government and constitutions of the United States and New Hampshire, and passage of a competency assessment (unspecified). These elements of instruction are present in the Portsmouth High School required curriculum, including assessment, by way of assessment of the competencies. A copy of the SB 157-FN is attached to these minutes. No further action is recommended regarding this policy.

First Aid & Emergency Medical Care (EBBC)

Kathleen shared with the Committee the comments from the School Nurses. Some of the comments are addressed in different School Board policies. For example, there is a separate policy on the administration of medication during the school day. Policy EBBC deals with the administration of first aid and emergency medical care only. These situations would most likely occur as a result of an accident or someone experiencing a medical emergency while on school property.

Leslie questioned what training personnel receive regarding the correct procedures to follow in the case of a medical emergency. Also, she questioned if Policy EBBC is included in the employee handbooks. Steve indicated that staff is trained on these procedures and will double check to make sure that the policy is included in the handbook.

Kathleen also explained that the nurses' comments included deleting the reference to the administration of oxygen (this is authorized by State law), as no school building currently stocks oxygen.

The nurses' comments also added language regarding health examinations. The Committee felt that this was not the appropriate policy for this requirement and will check existing policies for its inclusion.

Since there were substantial revisions to this policy, it will be redrafted in its entirety and have two readings by the Board.

Non-Policy Items Discussed:

MOU with Portsmouth Police Department

Steve indicated that he had met with the Police Department again regarding the MOU. He indicated that the Police want a clear definition of the police responsibility in schools regarding student behavior. In particular, the police intervention should be in those circumstances involving criminal conduct, i.e. acts of criminal mischief, thefts, violence, and threats of violence.

The draft currently refers to a police officer assigned to the "Officer Friendly" role and that is no longer the case. It was recommended to include language that the Police Department and the School Department will coordinate annual activities targeted to elementary students.

It was also discussed that students 18 years and older will be treated as adults for the purpose of criminal liability.

There was also a general discussion regarding clarity with communication between the Police and the School Department. In particular, there is a need for clarity regarding information that can be shared during an active police investigation.

Kathleen will make the edits and forward the MOU to the Committee for final review before the next Policy Committee meeting.

Recommended Board Actions:

Revise: (two readings):

First Aid and Emergency Medical Care (EBBC)

Revise and Reapprove: (single reading)

None

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 9:00 a.m. at Portsmouth High School

SB 157-FN - AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

03/12/2015 0677s

03/12/2015 0840s

2015 SESSION

15-0796

04/09

SENATE BILL 157-FN

AN ACT relative to encouraging high school students to take and pass a United States citizenship test.

SPONSORS: Sen. Birdsell, Dist 19; Sen. Avard, Dist 12; Sen. Reagan, Dist 17; Sen. Bradley, Dist 3; Sen. Fuller Clark, Dist 21; Sen. Stiles, Dist 24; Rep. Weyler, Rock 13; Rep. Cordelli, Carr 4; Rep. Notter, Hills 21; Rep. Murotake, Hills 32

COMMITTEE: Education

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill encourages students in high school or equivalent to take and pass a United States citizenship test as a component of instruction in the history, government, and constitutions of the United States and New Hampshire.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.

Matter removed from current law appears [~~in brackets and struckthrough.~~]

Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

03/12/2015 0677s

03/12/2015 0840s

15-0796

04/09

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Fifteen

AN ACT relative to encouraging high school students to take and pass a United States citizenship test.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 Legislative Purpose. In order to ensure that all New Hampshire high school graduates have a basic understanding of United States civics and history, and to promote and encourage active and engaged citizenship, the general court encourages all New Hampshire high school students to take a United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) test based on that administered to all applicants for U.S. citizenship.

2 School Boards; Instruction in National and State History and Government. Amend RSA 189:11 to read as follows:

189:11 Instruction in National and State History and Government.

I. In all public and private schools in the state there shall be given regular courses of instruction in the history, government and constitutions of the United States and New Hampshire, including the organization and operation of New Hampshire municipal, county and state government and of the federal government. Such instruction shall begin not later than the opening of the eighth grade and shall continue in high school as an identifiable component of a year's course in the history and government of the United States and New Hampshire.

II.(a) As a component of instruction under paragraph I, students shall be encouraged to take a United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) test.

(b) The test shall be based on the 100-question test used by the USCIS and administered to all applicants for United States citizenship. Students taking the test will be tested on all 100 questions, and a score of 60 percent shall represent a passing grade. Students may take the test more than once and those students who attain a passing grade shall be eligible for a certificate issued by their school.

3 Applicability. The provisions of this act shall only apply to students eligible to receive a high school diploma or high school equivalency certificate on or after January 1, 2016.

4 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.