

**Litchfield Board of Education Advisory Committee  
Cultural Awareness & Diversity Education  
Tuesday April 21, 2009, Litchfield Community Center, 3:00-5:00 PM**

I. Called to order at 3:00 PM

Committee members present: Bill Burgess, Berta Andrulis, Gayle Carr, Beth DeFiore, Kay Jones, Andrienne Longobucco, Jennifer Marinelli, Mary McDevitt, Eileen McKenna, Alison O’Leary, Bob Petricone, Jeanne Sandrib, Frank Simone, Andeen Tarrant-Fischer, Nancy Yurgelun.

Absent: Christopher Clark, Kristen Della Volpe, Sue Smith, Maggie Kresel.

II. Approval of Minutes of April 6, 2009:

Two corrections made to the minutes of April 6, 2009:  
Kay Jones- absent, Gayle Carr – arrived late.

Motion made by Frank Simone, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bob Petricone to accept the amended minutes of April 6, 2009 meeting. Motion carried.

III. Committee Member Requests:

John Tarrant, long-time resident and LPS alumni, will volunteer his time to the committee.

Bill Burgess asked to update the Board of Ed. on the work of the committee – bringing in new programs and dropping others leads to a sense of loss, presently no policy in place to provide direction, need good policy and good regulations, hope that facts drawn from research will provide committee recommendations by May 19<sup>th</sup>.

IV/V. Complete Fact-based Situation Assessment:

Agree to Scope of Proposed Policy & Regulation Guidelines for LPS:

Discussion regarding CT School Law, LPS Policies & Regulations, CABA Policy Guidelines, New Fairfield/New Hartford Benchmarks, and publications including “The Santa Dilemma”, “Help for the Holidays”, “Public Education, Private Faith”, and “Teaching about Religion”.

Committee agrees that Policy and Regulations are needed to address Cultural Awareness & Diversity Education in the Litchfield Public Schools.

LPS must provide an avenue for better communication between parents, Board, and Administration when concerns arise.

Policy & Regulations should have some flexibility - open minds about culture, but be cognizant of people's comfort level. Incorporate "Philosophical Guidelines" – e.g. allowing permission for a student to be excused from certain programs.

Provide In-Service on Cultural Awareness & Diversity Education Policy – vehicle is in place with Opening Day Professional Development.

VI. "Committee-of-the-Whole" Direction to Drafting Subcommittee:

Directions to Drafting Subcommittee:

6115 & 6115.1 New Hartford Policy adopted June 3, 2008 should be used to provide direction to write LPS Policy.

Use New Fairfield Bylaws as a model for Regulations.

Use CABA Guidelines as a reference.

VII. Agree to Next Steps and Timing (Need for May 5<sup>th</sup> committee meeting?):

May 5, 2009 – draft guidelines committee meets with steering committee

Draft guidelines committee:

Kristen Della Volpe, Eileen McKenna, Alison O'Leary, and Bob Petricone

Steering committee:

Berta Andrulis, Gayle Carr, Chris Clark, Jennifer Marinelli, Jeanne Sandrib

May 19, 2009 – full committee meets to hear policy and regulations proposal

May 20, 2009 – present committee proposal to Dr. Wheeler

May 26, 2009 – final committee meeting

June 10, 2009 – present proposal to Board of Ed

VIII. Meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Kay Jones