

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Monday, October 2, 2023
9:00 a.m.
Board Office Conference Room**

Minutes

In Attendance: Nick Markarian, Robin McKeon, Keith Molinari, Jennifer White

I. Discussion

1. [P 7481 – Unmanned Aircraft Systems \(UAS - also known as Drones\)](#)

The district has not have a policy on this, but about 8 years ago added language to the Facilities Use form saying that motorized vehicles and drones are not permitted on district property without permission. Ridge High has a drone that has been used to take photos at school, like the senior photo on Lee field. More recently, questions have arisen when other people wanted to use drones to take photos. This policy from Strauss Esmay lists the situations in which the district could approve the use of drones. The Policy Committee recommends the adoption of this policy.

2. [DRAFT 2026-27 School Calendar](#)

Mr. Markarian presented a draft calendar for 26-27. It will be up for first reading in November.

II. Policy Alert 231

3. [Policy Alert 231 Summary](#)
4. [P 3161– Examination for Cause \(Revised\)](#) Clarifies the language for when the district needs to send a certificated staff member for a physical or psychological exam.
5. [P 3212 – Attendance \(M\) \(Revised\)](#) [R 3212 – Attendance \(M\) \(Revised\)](#) Revised to reflect language in the new sick leave act
6. [P 3324 – Right of Privacy \(Revised\)](#) language that says any audio or visual recording by students or visitors in classes is prohibited without approval of the principal or supervisor
7. [P 3432 – Sick Leave \(Abolished\)](#) new sick leave act takes precedent so we do not need the policy
8. [R 3432 – Sick Leave \(Abolished\)](#) new sick leave act takes precedent so we do not need the policy
9. [P 4161 – Examination for Cause \(Revised\)](#) Clarifies the language for when the district needs to send a non-certificated staff member for a physical or psychological exam.
10. [P 4212 – Attendance \(M\) \(Revised\)](#) Revised to reflect language in the new sick leave act
11. [R 4212 – Attendance \(M\) \(New\)](#) Revised to reflect language in the new sick leave act
12. [P 4324 – Right of Privacy \(Revised\)](#) language added that states says any audio or visual recording by students or visitors in classes is prohibited without approval of the principal or supervisor
13. [P 4432 – Sick Leave \(Abolished\)](#) new sick leave act takes precedent so we do not need the policy
14. [R 4432 – Sick Leave \(Abolished\)](#) new sick leave act takes precedent so we do not need the policy

15. [P 5111 – Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Students \(M\) \(Revised\)](#) The policy was revised to address new language in the statute that says boards are allowed to admit students who are not residents of the district, but requires the payment of tuition that the board has set. The statute does not address how to handle students who move during the first couple or last couple months of the school year. Until we hear otherwise, we will continue to handle those situations the same way we always have. Once we get clarity, we on the statute, we may need to update our regulation to reflect the new statute
16. [R 5111 – Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Students \(M\) \(Revised\)](#) See P5111 above
17. [P 5116 – Education of Homeless Children and Youths \(Revised\)](#) minor language change
18. [R 5116 – Education of Homeless Children and Youths \(Revised\)](#)
19. [P 5460.02 –Bridge Year Pilot Program \(M\) \(Abolished\)](#) This was a temporary policy due to Covid, the policy and regulation are no longer necessary
20. [R 5460.02 –Bridge Year Pilot Program \(M\) \(Abolished\)](#) This was a temporary policy due to Covid, the policy and regulation are no longer necessary
21. [P 8500 – Food Services \(M\) \(Revised\)](#) Strauss recommends putting all three of these policies into one because of the new Working Class Families Anti-Hunger Act. The threshold to be eligible for free lunch is raised so we could have more families that qualify for free lunch, there is no more “reduced lunch”
22. [P 8540 – School Nutrition Programs \(M\) \(Abolished\)](#) rolled into policy 8500
23. [P 8550 – Meal Charges/Outstanding Food Service Bill \(M\) \(Abolished\)](#) rolled into policy 9500

III. First Reading

24. [P 0155 – Board Committees \(Revised\)](#) (revised to reflect language about how alternates and 4th members are handled)
25. [P 0169 – Board Member Use of Electronic Communications/Email/Social Media \(Revised\)](#) (revised by Mr. Giacobbe to simplify)
26. [P 1642.01 – Sick Leave \(New\)](#)
27. [R 1642.01 – Sick Leave \(New\)](#)
28. [P 2419 – School Threat Assessment Teams \(M\) \(New\)](#)
29. [R 2419 – School Threat Assessment Teams \(M\) \(New\)](#)
30. [P 8210 – School Year Calendar \(Revised\)](#)
31. [P 9181 – Volunteer Athletic Coaches And Co-Curricular Activity Advisors/Assistants \(Revised\)](#)