

**DANBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 11, 2014**

Present: K. Molinaro, Chair; M. Ferguson, A. Fluskey-Lattin, R. Taborsak

Absent: R. Hawley

Also Present: S. Pascarella, W. Glass, J. Martino, D. Petersen, K. Thompson, K. O'Dowd

K. Molinaro, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and introduced Kathleen O'Dowd, Coordinator of Health and Nursing Services. Ms. O'Dowd gave a powerpoint presentation on "Food Allergies and Anaphylaxis". She stated that some schools have monthly food celebrations and there have been some instances of food allergies causing health problems. We have 552 students with food allergies and 272 EpiPen orders. Ms. O'Dowd recommends eliminating food celebrations since there is a wide non-compliance and basic ignorance of what foods contain allergens. There are many alternatives to food celebrations that should be considered, i.e., crafts, books.

A wide discussion took place. Some suggestions included:

- A survey of parents view
- Having Ms. O'Dowd's presentation at Citywide PTO with parents invited
- Nurses making presentations to staff at individual schools

The goal is to establish a change in policy by September 2014.

CABE sent us a number of policies for consideration. A number of policies need to be updated as to language and other minor changes. These will be taken up in the future.

R. Taborsak moved, seconded by M. Ferguson, to adjourn the February 11th Policy Committee Meeting. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Robert Taborsak, Secretary