

**DANBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
APRIL 3, 2013**

Present: Shirley Chilian, Chair; Eileen Alberts, Gladys Cooper, Sandy Steichen, Robert Taborsak

Also Present: Kathy Molinaro, Sal Pascarella, Bill Glass, Kim Thompson, Joe Martino, Helena Nitowski;
AIS Magnet School parents: Dina Quinn, Jill Amalfitano, Kathy Keefe, Kathy Snow,
Christhane Klamt Wiseman, Dan Sahl

Ms. Chilian called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. , welcomed all visitors, then turned the meeting over to Dr. Pascarella to explain policy as written. Ms. Thompson explained recommendations from our law firm as they pertain to new State and Federal regulations. Ms. Chilian asked for discussion on admission ruling. Mr. Taborsak reviewed the intent of the magnet school graduates would enrich the school that they entered after the five years at the AIS Magnet School and advocated for a fair and equitable lottery system. Ms. Alberts also advocated for a fair and equitable lottery system. Mrs. Cooper spoke to fairness of system and how do we develop a good policy.

Ms. Chilian asked about writing policy, i.e., how does a student become eligible for enrollment? Dr. Pascarella referred to policy, i.e., interest/slots and a diverse enrollment. Ms. Thompson spoke to new federal/State issues law. Should there be a goal to have certain number from each public school or should overcrowding be a consideration, i.e, walkers, overcrowding, etc. Dr. Pascarella requested that a lottery should be ready by January 2014 to give parents options.

- Ms. Cooper asked for the main reason that we created this middle school magnet school was to ease overcrowding. Dr. Pascarella responded, yes, that was the main reason.
- Ms. Chilian asked if there was any promise or discussion that current enrollees from AIS Magnet School would go on to a middle magnet school. Dr. Glass responded, no.
- Ms. Chilian asked if siblings' policy would be the same as current policy. Dr. Pascarella asked that the Operation Plan be left alone but that the issue of inclusion of siblings is an action by the Board.
- Ms. Steichen asked if STEM Academy policy needs to be addressed. Dr. Pascarella responded that no policy is necessary; the regulations will take care of the participation.
- Ms. Steichen raised issue of sibling preference and one family may take on too many seats.
- Mr. Taborsak asked that all Danbury students be allowed to submit applications. Then State/Federal laws apply and weighted issues apply.
- Ms. Alberts asked how many seats will be available. Dr. Pascarella responded 600 seats. Then, would seats be filled without lottery? Answer, only with redistricting.

Ms. Chilian asked if Committee would study sample policies and come back at another meeting. The group decided on next meeting for April 11th at 10:00 a.m.

Ms. Alberts moved, seconded by Mr. Taborsak, to adjourn the April 3, 2013 Policy Committee Meeting. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 11:05 am.