

Policy Committee Meeting

Tuesday, September 24, 2024 4:30 PM

Davis Center, 1250 West Broadway Avenue, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55411

1) **Call to Order and Roll Call**

2) **Adoption of Agenda**

3) **Acceptance of Minutes**

3)a. August 27, 2024

4) **Reports and Discussion**

4)a. Regular Policy Reviews

4)a.1. Review Policy 5050 (Title IX Non-Discrimination)

4)a.2. Review Policy 4002 (Harassment And Violence Prohibition Protected Classes)

4)b. MSBA Policy Audit and Review Update

5) **New Business**

5)a. Resolution Repealing Policy 6524 and Adopting Policy 6255 (2024-0048)

6) **Adjournment**

**OFFICIAL MINUTES
MINNEAPOLIS BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
AUGUST 27, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Lori Norvell called the meeting to order at 4:44 p.m., a quorum being present.

ROLL CALL

Present: Directors Faheema Feerayarre, Collin Beachy, Lori Norvell (3)

Absent: Directors Sharon El-Amin, Adriana Cerrillo (2)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Beachy moved to approve the agenda.

On a voice vote, the motion was adopted unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Beachy moved to approve the minutes from the May 28, 2024 meeting.

On a voice vote, the motion was adopted unanimously.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

Regular Policy Reviews

A review was conducted of Policy 3700 (Fund Balance) and Policy 4016 (Family Medical Leave Act), with no recommendations for revision shared.

MSBA Policy Audit and Review Update

Staff provided an overview on the on-going development of the student handbook, which would align with MPS policy on student behavior standards and code of conduct.

Policy Priorities Discussion

Committee members discussed the potential options on revisions to MPS' cell phone policy. The committee requested that a survey be developed to gather input in advance of determining any direction for a revision to the personal electronic device policy.

ADJOURNMENT

Without objection, Chair Norvell adjourned the meeting at 5:22 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Ryan Strack, Assistant to the Superintendent and Board.

Meeting materials: <https://meetings.boardbook.org/Public/Agenda/1807?meeting=649262>

DRAFT

MEMO

To: School Board Policy Committee Members
 From: Ryan Strack, Assistant to the Superintendent and Board
 Date: 9/24/2024

Re: Policy audit and review process next steps

Memo Purpose and Background

This memo outlines the recommended next steps following the initial phase of our ongoing policy review and audit, in partnership with the Minnesota School Board Association (MSBA). MSBA reviewed [MPS' 3000 \(Business\) chapter](#) as the first phase in the process and made overall recommendations, which were presented in the [April 23, 2024, policy committee meeting](#).

Policy Change Recommendations

The chart below indicates the first round of staff-recommended policy changes in alignment with the MSBA recommendations. As discussed with Policy Committee members, the approach will be to bring several batches of policy changes together, as opposed to all recommended changes at once.

Policy Action	MSBA Audit Rationale/Explanation for Change
Revise Policy 3005 (Budget)	Adopt new version aligned with MSBA model policy on budget
Repal Policy 3142 (Internal Service Funds)	Separate policy not necessary; matter addressed in other policy or elsewhere
Revise Policy Policy 3170 (Capital)	Revise to incorporate minimal changes



Planning And Budgeting	
Repeal Policy 3179 (Equipment Replacement)	Separate policy not necessary; matter addressed in other policy or elsewhere
Repeal Policy 3200 (Local Funds)	Separate policy not necessary; matter addressed in other policy or elsewhere
Repeal Policy 3220 (Federal, State, and Local Funds)	Separate policy not necessary; matter addressed in other policy or elsewhere
Revise Policy 3280 (Gifts, Bequests And Grants)	Adopt new version aligned with MSBA model policy on budget
Repeal Policy 3294 (Bond Ratings)	Separate policy not necessary; matter addressed in other policy or elsewhere
Repeal Policy 3295 (Cash Flow)	Separate policy not necessary; matter addressed in other policy or elsewhere
Repeal Policy 3400 (Banking)	Separate policy not necessary; matter addressed in other policy or elsewhere
Repeal Policy 3432 (Expenditure Reporting)	Separate policy not necessary; matter addressed in other policy or elsewhere
Revise Policy 3434 (Periodic Audit)	Adopt new version aligned with MSBA model policy on budget
Revise Policy 3700 (Fund Balance)	Adopt new version aligned with MSBA model policy on budget

Timeline

Staff will bring forward the final recommended revisions at the October Policy Committee meeting for review and potential referral to the full board for first reading in November and passage in December. Simultaneously, staff will work to bring forward the next batch of recommendations from the 3000 chapter.

**MINNEAPOLIS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
RESOLUTION 2024-0048**

RESOLUTION REPEALING POLICY 6524 AND ADOPTING POLICY 6255 (2024-0048)

WHEREAS, School districts are required by state or federal law to have a policy addressing this matter; and

WHEREAS, The Board’s Policy Committee has recommended the proposed new policy.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors, Special School District No. 1 (Minneapolis Public Schools) adopts the changes as follows:

SECTION 1: **ADOPTION** “Policy 6255: School-Sponsored Student Publications And Activities” of the Minneapolis Public Schools Policies & Regulations is hereby *added* as follows:

ADOPTION

Policy 6255: School-Sponsored Student Publications And Activities(*Added*)

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to protect students’ rights to free speech in production of school-sponsored media and activities while at the same time balancing the school district’s role in supervising student publications and the operation of public schools.

2. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

- a. To the extent otherwise consistent with this policy, the school district may exercise editorial control over the style and content of student expression in school-sponsored publications and activities.
- b. Expressions and representations made by students in school-sponsored publications and activities are not expressions of official school district policy. Faculty advisors shall supervise student writers to ensure compliance with the law and school district policies.
- c. Students who believe their right to free expression has been unreasonably restricted in school-sponsored media or activity may seek review of the decision by the building principal. The principal shall issue a decision no later than three (3) school days after review is requested.
 - i. Students producing school-sponsored media and activities shall be under the supervision of a faculty advisor and the school principal. School-sponsored media and activities shall be subject to the guidelines set forth below.
 - ii.

School-sponsored media may be distributed at reasonable times and locations.

3. DEFINITIONS

- a. “Distribution” means circulation or dissemination of material by means of handing out free copies, selling or offering copies for sale, accepting donations for copies, posting, or displaying material, or placing materials in internal staff or student mailboxes.
- b. “Material and substantial disruption” of a normal school activity means:
 - i. Where the normal school activity is an educational program of the school district for which student attendance is compulsory, “material and substantial disruption” is defined as any disruption which interferes with or impedes the implementation of that program.
 - ii. Where the normal school activity is voluntary in nature (including, without limitation, school athletic events, school plays and concerts, and lunch periods) “material and substantial disruption” is defined as student rioting, unlawful seizures of property, conduct inappropriate to the event, participation in a school boycott, demonstration, sit-in, stand-in, walk-out, or other related forms of activity.
- c. “Minor” means any person under the age of eighteen (18).
- d. “Obscene to minors” means:
 - i. The average person, applying contemporary community standards, would find that the material, taken as a whole, appeals to the prurient interest of minors of the age to whom distribution is requested;
 - ii. The material depicts or describes, in a manner that is patently offensive to prevailing standards in the adult community concerning how such conduct should be presented to minors of the age to whom distribution is requested, sexual conduct such as intimate sexual acts (normal or perverted), masturbation, excretory functions, or lewd exhibition of the genitals; and
 - iii. The material, taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value for minors.
- e. “School activities” means any activity of students sponsored by the school including, but not limited to, classroom work, library activities, physical education classes, official assemblies and other similar gatherings, school athletic contests, band concerts, school plays and other theatrical productions, and in-school lunch periods.
- f. “School-sponsored media” means material that is:
 - i. prepared, wholly or substantially written, published, broadcast, or otherwise disseminated by a student journalist enrolled in the school district;
 - ii. distributed or generally made available to students in the school; and
 - iii. prepared by a student journalist under the supervision of a student media adviser.

School-sponsored media does not include material prepared solely for

distribution or transmission in the classroom in which the material is produced, or a yearbook.

g. "Student journalist" means a school district student in grades 6 through 12 who gathers, compiles, writes, edits, photographs, records, or otherwise prepares information for dissemination in school-sponsored media.

h. "Student media adviser" means a qualified teacher, as defined in Minnesota Statutes,

4. GUIDELINES

a. Except as provided in paragraph B below, a student journalist has the right to exercise freedom of speech and freedom of the press in school-sponsored media regardless of whether the school-sponsored media receives financial support from the school or district, uses school equipment or facilities in its production, or is produced as part of a class or course in which the student journalist is enrolled. Freedom of speech includes freedom to express political viewpoints. Consistent with paragraph B below, a student journalist has the right to determine the news, opinion, feature, and advertising content of school-sponsored media. The school district must not discipline a student journalist for exercising rights or freedoms under this paragraph or the First Amendment of the United States Constitution

b. Student expression in school-sponsored media, a yearbook, or school-sponsored activity is prohibited when the material:

- i. is obscene to minors;
- ii. is defamatory;
- iii. is profane, harassing, threatening, or intimidating;
- iv. constitutes an unwarranted invasion of privacy;
- v. violates federal or state law;
- vi. causes a material and substantial disruption of school activities;
- vii. is directed to inciting or producing imminent lawless action on school premises or the violation of lawful school policies or rules, including a policy adopted in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.03 or 121A.031;
- viii. advertises or promotes any product or service not permitted for minors by law;
- ix. expresses or advocates sexual, racial, or religious harassment or violence or prejudice; or
- x. is distributed or displayed in violation of time, place, and manner regulations.

c. The school district must not retaliate or take adverse employment action against a student media adviser for supporting a student journalist exercising rights or freedoms under paragraph A above or the First Amendment of the United States Constitution.

d. Notwithstanding the rights or freedoms of this Article or the First Amendment of the United States Constitution, nothing in this Article inhibits a student media adviser from teaching professional standards of English and journalism to student journalists.

These professional standards may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- i. assuring that participants learn whatever lessons the activity is designed to teach;
- ii. assuring that readers or listeners are not exposed to material that may be inappropriate for their level of maturity;
- iii. assuring that the views of the individual speaker are not erroneously attributed to the school;
- iv. assuring that the school is not associated with any position other than neutrality on matters of political controversy;
- v. assuring that the sponsored student speech cannot reasonably be perceived to advocate conduct otherwise inconsistent with the shared values of a civilized social order;
- vi. assuring that the school is not associated with expression that is, for example, ungrammatical, poorly written, inadequately researched, biased or prejudiced, vulgar or profane, or unsuitable for immature audiences.

e. Time, Place, and Manner of Distribution

Students shall be permitted to distribute written materials at school as follows:

- i. Time
Distribution shall be limited to the hours before the school day begins, during lunch hour and after school is dismissed.
- ii. Place
Written materials may be distributed in locations so as not to interfere with the normal flow of traffic within the school hallways, walkways, entry ways, and parking lots. Distribution shall not impede entrance to or exit from school premises in any way.
- iii. Manner
No one shall induce or coerce a student or staff member to accept a student publication.

5. POSTING

The school district must adopt a student journalist policy consistent with Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.80 and post it on the district website.

Original Adoption: Legal References:

- U. S. Const., amend. I
- Morse v. Frederick, 551 U.S. 393 (2007)
- Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier, 484 U.S. 260 (1988)
- Bystrom v. Fridley High School, I.S.D. No. 14, 822 F. 2d 747 (8th Cir. 1987)
- Minn. Stat. § 121A.03 (Model Policy)
- Minn. Stat. § 121A.031 (School Student Bullying Policy)

- [Minn. Stat. § 121A.80 \(Student Journalism; Student Expression\)](#)

MPS Policy Cross References:

- [MPS Policy 4000](#)
- [MPS Policy 4001](#)
- [MPS Policy 4002](#)
- [MPS Policy 5025](#)
- [MPS Policy 5050](#)
- [MPS Policy 5200](#)
- [MPS Policy 6250](#)

SECTION 2: **REPEAL** “Policy 6524: Student Publications” of the Minneapolis Public Schools Policies & Regulations is hereby *repealed* as follows:

REPEAL

~~Policy 6524: Student Publications (Repealed)~~

~~Student publications are important elements of the instructional program and contribute directly to the accomplishment of the schools' goals. The Board wishes to support the development of student produced school newspapers, annuals, and magazines.~~

~~The regulation of such publications shall be the responsibility of the Board of Education.~~

~~**Original Adoption:**~~

~~04/25/67~~

~~**Revision Dates:**~~

~~3/28/72, 12/16/75, 7/19/83, 8/13/85~~

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE MINNEAPOLIS PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF DIRECTORS _____.

	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Abdi	_____	_____	_____	_____
Beachy	_____	_____	_____	_____
Cerrillo	_____	_____	_____	_____
El-Amin	_____	_____	_____	_____
Ellison	_____	_____	_____	_____
Emerick	_____	_____	_____	_____
Jourdain	_____	_____	_____	_____
Norvell	_____	_____	_____	_____

Presiding Officer

Attest

Collin Beachy, Chair, Minneapolis
Public Schools

Lori Norvell, Clerk, Minneapolis
Public Schools