

## Board of Education POLICY Committee Meeting

Thursday, May 7, 2026 7:15 PM

via Zoom Webinar Video Conferencing and Board of Education Conf. Room E (If due to weather, schools are closed, meeting will be held via Zoom only for BOE members.) Public Access via BEtv Live Streaming BEtv Live Stream @ <http://devos2.bethel.k12.ct.us/show-videos?g=13639a4f&page=1&filter=live> and/or Members of the public wishing to make public comments during the Audience Participation portion of the meeting, use the webinar link below  
Attendee Link: <https://bethel-k12-ct-us.zoom.us/j/>, 1 School Street, PO Box 253, Bethel, CT 06801

### 1. Call to Order

1.A. Roll Call for Quorum

### 2. Second Reading

2.A. Policy 6142.101P Student Wellness and Nutrition **Speaker (s)**: Christine Carver

2.B. Policy 6161.13 Regarding Library Collection Development and Maintenance **Speaker (s)**: Donna Burns

2.C. Policy 6161.12 Regarding Library Material Review and Reconsideration **Speaker (s)**: Donna Burns

2.D. Policy 6161.14 Regarding Library Displays and Programs **Speaker (s)**: Donna Burns

2.E. Policy 6161.1 Guidelines for Evaluation and Selection of Instructional Materials **Speaker (s)**: Christine Carver

2.F. Policy 5113.1 Working Papers **Speaker (s)**: Christine Carver

2.G. Policy and regulation 3542.43 Food Service Charging **Speaker (s)**: Jen Variale

2.H. Policy 1316 Conduct on School Property **Speaker (s)**: Christine Carver

2.I. Policy 5112 Age of Attendance **Speaker (s)**: Christine Carver

### 3. Policies for future review/discussion

### 4. Public Comment

(Please note: The Board welcomes Public Comment and asks that speakers please limit their comments to 2 minutes. Speakers may offer objective comments of school operations and programs that concern them. The Board will not permit any expression of personal complaints or defamatory comments about Board of Education personnel and students, nor against any person connected with the Bethel Public School System.)

### 5. Adjourn

## Instruction

### Guidelines for Evaluation/Selection of ~~Instructional Materials~~

Material for ~~instruction and school libraries~~ will be selected by ~~school personnel in consultation with administration and faculty~~. Selection shall be based on:

1. Needs of the individual School
  - a. Based on the curriculum
  - b. Based on requests of professional staff members
2. Needs of the Individual Students
  - a. Based on knowledge of children and youth
  - b. Based on requests of parents and students

Provisions should be made for a wide range of materials on all levels of difficulty with a diversity of appeal and the presentations of different points of view. In making selections, professionally prepared selection aids should be consulted as guides.

~~The Board recognizes that, despite the care taken to select [primary learning materials and/or supplemental materials], parents or guardians may occasionally Oeasional-objections to the selection of a particular [primary learning and/or supplemental] instructional material may be made by the public despite the care taken to select those materials most valuable for the student and the teacher for their child. Parents or guardians who object to their child using a particular [primary learning and/or supplemental] material shall explain the basis for their objection to the teacher or the building principal. If the issue cannot be resolved at the building level, the parent or guardian may present the issue to the Superintendent, who shall consider the request in accordance with applicable law and whose decision shall be final. The complainant will be asked to complete the form "Citizen's Request for Reconsideration of Instructional Materials." Upon receipt of a request for reconsideration an Advisory committee, consisting of the teacher and the person(s) responsible for selecting instructional materials, will review the work in question and report their finds to the citizen. Copies of the Request Form and the report will be sent to the principal and the Superintendent~~

~~If the citizen is not satisfied with the decision contained in the report, he/she may appeal the decision to the principal, Superintendent and the Board of Education.~~

**Commented [JR1]:** Clarify in the title of the policy whether this applies to primary learning materials and/or supplemental materials, as discussed in the comment immediately below.

**Commented [JR2]:** Primary learning materials and/or supplemental materials? Both primary learning materials and supplemental materials are discussed in Policy 6161. Recommend defining and clarifying. If you would like our help defining this, please let me know and I'd be glad to weigh in further.

**Commented [JR3]:** Recommend deleting the school library language and adopting our model Library Collection Policy, as discussed in the cover email that accompanies this document.

**Commented [JR4]:** The Superintendent or designee(s)?

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**Commented [JR5]:** If the Board wishes to retain this challenge process for instructional materials that do not implicate library collections (although not legally required), I have suggested streamlined language that provides for a less onerous process that also narrows the scope of who may make such a challenge. There is no legal prohibition to limiting who may make such a challenge to parents/guardians concerning a particular instructional material for their child.