

The Regional District 13 Board of Education Policy Committee met in special session on Wednesday, September 30, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. in the library at Coginchaug Regional High School.

Policy Committee Members present: Mrs. Cowan, Mr. Moore, Mr. Konstantino (attending virtually), and Mr. Viens

Policy Committee Members absent: Mr. Simmons and Mr. DelVecchio

Administration Present: Dr. Leggett, Superintendent of Schools

Mrs. Cowan called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Viens, to approve the agenda as presented.

All in favor of approving the agenda as presented: Mrs. Cowan, Mr. Moore, Mr. Konstantino, and Mr. Viens. Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes – August 16, 2026

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Viens, to approve the August 16, 2026 meeting minutes as presented.

All in favor of approving the August 16, 2026 Meeting Minutes as presented: Mrs. Cowan, Mr. Moore, Mr. Konstantino, and Mr. Viens. Motion passed.

Review Policies

A. Policy and Regulation Systems 9312

The committee discussed updating its existing policy to clarify the policy adoption process, including the two-reading requirement, emergency situations, and procedures for repealing or deleting policies. Dr. Leggett proposed incorporating the missing language and moving the revisions directly to a first reading,

while the committee suggested defining “emergency” more specifically, such as matters involving health and safety, to avoid ambiguity.

B. Administration of Medication 5141.21

The committee reviewed updates to the 36-page policy to reflect new state legislation, including replacing references to “cartridge injectors” with broader language covering nasal administration, changing “paraprofessional” to “paraeducator,” and adding a definition of “qualified school employee.” The major change involves allowing trained district employees to administer an opioid antagonist like Narcan in good faith during suspected overdoses and permitting it to be stored in designated locations such as AED cabinets. The policy will also remove the parental opt-out provision and include training and expiration-check requirements. The revised policy will move forward for a first reading.

C. Suicide Prevention and Intervention 5141.6

The committee reviewed proposed changes to the suicide prevention policy, including changing the threshold from a student having to communicate suicidal ideation to school staff perceiving or having a concern that the student may be at risk, and adding the phrase “if any” following the word “therapist” where it exists in the policy (...the student’s therapist, if any...). Committee members expressed concern that the term “perceived” could be subjective and requested clarification or potentially clearer wording, while confirming that the Director of Student Services would remain the designated person responsible for coordinating risk assessments. The district also noted new legislation requiring a secure system for mental-health providers to send student health and safety plans directly to schools, which the district already has in place.

Dr. Leggett also discussed that the leadership team reviewed the field trip policy and raised a safety concern about small trips where only one staff member accompanies a few students, suggesting that a second adult may be appropriate in case of an emergency. The committee discussed whether this should apply to sporting events and other school-related activities, and whether the requirement should instead be addressed through regulations or procedures rather than policy so it can be updated more easily as circumstances change.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjournment

Mr. Viens made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moore, to adjourn the meeting.

*All in favor of adjourning the meeting: Mrs. Cowan, Mr. Moore, Mr. Konstantino, and Mr. Viens.
Motion passed and the meeting adjourned.*

Respectfully submitted by Meghan Shortell-Fratantonio