

1 Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District (SVRTSD)

2
3 **Policy Committee Meeting Minutes, Wednesday October 16, 2024**

4
5 RGB members present for meeting: Online- A. Edelson, C. Putney and J. Orzechowski
6 Southwest Tech represented by Supt./Dir. Meg Honsinger and John Lamson, Assistant Director

7
8 Recorder: Sandra Redding, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent

9
10 Policy Committee meeting was opened at 4:03PM by Chair Edelson who welcomed any public
11 and asked for comments. Hearing none, he opened discussion on:

12 **Policy 5120-Concussion Management**. The committee felt the SVSU policy wording was
13 appropriate for SW Tech's needs as well. With motions from Orzechowski and Putney, the
14 committee voted unanimously to recommend this policy, C5120, to our full board for warning. It
15 has been included on the October full board agenda for warning purposes.

16
17 Discussion ensued concerning **Policy 5084C-Personal Use of Wireless Communication**.

- 18 • Supt. Honsinger shared that the Yondr pouch rollout for cellphone use has run very
19 smoothly. SVSU provided the pouches for MAU and Arlington students and also shared a
20 quantity with SW Tech for use with our sending schools and home schooled students.
21 Upon entry to school in the morning, students are asked to turn off phones and any other
22 wireless devices, then place them in the Yondr pouch which is then magnetically sealed.
23 Students will unlock their pouch at an exit door when departing school for the day.
24 Teachers have observed that students are talking with each other more and also
25 interacting with teachers much more than before this action was taken. There has been
26 very little negative reaction from parents or students overall. Additional comments:
 - 27 ○ AE-How and when may students access their phones? Should there be a
28 specific time and or place during the school day for phone use? Should specific
29 regulations be attached to policy or should the policy be general?
 - 30 ○ JO-board should not get involved in the regulations that are administration
31 driven. Broad strokes would provide more leeway and allow changes should they
32 be needed. Perhaps phones could be used in personal school time only, but he
33 would go along with administrations suggestions as they are seeing the cause
34 and effect in motion
 - 35 ○ JL-we could leave policy broad but include regulations from the student
36 handbook, especially when it mentions consequences for non-compliance. He
37 feels there is no need to change the policy language. Also, it may be best not to
38 offer too many possible phone uses in school options at least for a while.
39 Students are just getting used to keeping devices out of sight, so any little
40 changes might be too confusing and hard to enforce.
 - 41 ○ CP-inquired if any blowback has occurred and was informed we at SW Tech
42 have had no problems and just a few mentioned at MAU.
 - 43 ○ The committee agreed that this policy was fine the way it is written and would like
44 to just add a new review date. With motions from Putney and Orzechowski, the
45 committee agreed to accept policy as written and change the review date to
46 10/2024. Motion passed unanimously.

47 **Policy 5176C Emergency Medication**-with a little discussion of the nurse's role in school
48 medication distribution and how away from school activities are handled concerning any
49 medication use, the committee agreed that the overall wording was fine and just edits were
50 needed. So, with motions from Putney and Orzechowski, the committee voted to note that the
51 policy may stand as written with just any necessary edits and be stated as reviewed in 10/2024.
52 Unanimous action completed this process.

53
54 **Policy 6190C Holiday Observations and Programs**- Lamson stated that due to changing times,
55 the VSBA has offered that this type of policy should be updated to a **District Equity Policy**.
56 According to Lamson, an equity policy could possibly replace one or two existing policies. The

1 committee would like more information concerning those policies before making any decisions, so
2 this discussion will be tabled until the next meeting. Motions by Putney and Orzechowski to that
3 effect resulted in a unanimous vote. Honsinger was asked what SW Tech usually does around
4 the holidays for celebrations and recognition. She shared we often have a "holiday tree" and
5 some programs do their own takes on the holidays. Last year, there was a Holiday Tree contest
6 featuring a tree designed and made by each program using only materials available and used in
7 that specific program. This was very well received and enjoyed by students and staff.

8
9 With no other business at this time, the meeting adjourned at 4:41PM with motions from
10 Orzechowski and Putney. Unanimous response.

11
12
13