

**Policies & Procedures Sub-Committee**  
**June 6, 2024**

A Policies & Procedures Sub-Committee meeting will be held on **June 6, 2024, at 4:00 PM in the Ferrante School Committee Room.**

**AGENDA:**

1. File BEDH – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS
2. File BDG – SCHOOL ATTORNEY
3. Review of new language for the **Guide to Revere public Schools for Students and Parents/Caregivers**
4. File JH – STUDENT ABSENCES AND EXCUSES
5. Curriculum (Selection of Textbooks and Educational Materials)
6. Discussion of RHS Student Senate request to add a CityLab student representative to the School Committee

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne K. Kelly, Ed.D  
Superintendent of Schools

DK/rp

**File: BEDH - PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

All regular and special meetings of the School Committee shall be open to the public. Executive sessions will be held only as prescribed by the Statutes of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The Revere School Committee desires citizens of the District to attend its meetings so that they may become better acquainted with the operations and the programs of Revere Public Schools. In addition, the Committee would like the opportunity to hear the wishes and ideas of the Revere school community on matters within the scope of their authority. These matters include the budget for the Revere Public Schools, the performance of the Superintendent, and the educational goals and policies of the Revere Public Schools.

In order that all citizens who wish to be heard before the Committee have a chance and to ensure the ability of the Committee to conduct the District's business in an orderly manner, the following rules and procedures are adopted consistent with state and federal free speech laws:

1. At the start of each regularly scheduled School Committee meeting, individuals or group representatives who have signed up to speak will be invited to address the Committee during its 15-minute public comment period, which shall be known as Public Speak. Public Speak shall occur prior to discussion of Agenda items, unless the Chair determines that there is a good reason for rearranging the order at a public meeting that is unrelated to deterring participation in Public Speak.
2. All speakers are encouraged to present their remarks in a respectful manner.
3. Speakers must begin their remarks by stating their name, town or city of residence, and affiliation. All remarks will be addressed through the Chair of the meeting.
4. Public Speak shall concern items that are not on the School Committee's agenda, but which are within the scope of the School Committee's authority. Therefore, any comments involving staff members or students must concern the educational goals, policies, or budget of the Revere Public Schools, or the performance of the Superintendent.
5. Assuming that four (4) or fewer speakers sign up to engage in public comment, each speaker will be allowed three (3) minutes each to present their material. If five (5) or more speakers sign up to engage in public comment, then each speaker will be allowed two (2) minutes each to present their material. No more than six (6) speakers will be accommodated at any individual meeting.
6. Large groups addressing the same topic are encouraged to consolidate their remarks and/ or select a spokesperson to comment at Public Speak.
7. Speakers may not assign their time to another speaker, and in general, extensions of time will not be permitted. However, speakers who require reasonable accommodations on the basis Revere Public Schools of a speech-related disability or who require language interpretation services may be allotted a total of five (5) minutes to present their material. Speakers must notify the School Committee by telephone or email at least 48 hours in

advance of the meeting if they wish to request an extension of time for one of these reasons.

8. The Chair of the meeting may not interrupt speakers who have been recognized to speak, except that the Chair reserves the right to terminate speech which is not Constitutionally protected because it constitutes true threats, incitement to imminent lawless conduct, comments that were found by a court of law to be defamatory, and/ or sexually explicit comments made to appeal to prurient interests. Verbal comments will also be curtailed once they exceed the time limits outlined in paragraphs 5 and 7 of this policy and/ or to the extent they exceed the scope of the School Committee's authority.

*Disclaimer: Public Speak is not a time for debate or response to comments by the School Committee. Comments made at Public Speak do not reflect the views or the positions of the School Committee. Because of constitutional free speech principles, the School Committee does not have the authority to prevent all speech that may be upsetting and/ or offensive at Public Speak.*

SOURCE: MASC

Amended by Revere School Committee: March 2019

## GUIDE TO REVERE PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS/CAREGIVERS

Re: Proposal for **New Language**

### **INCIDENTS FOR WHICH STUDENTS MAYBE SUSPENDED OR EXPELLED** (Pg. 40)

This list of incidents is intended to communicate the types of offenses that may warrant suspension. The school district reserves in all cases the discretion of the school administration to determine the appropriate level of discipline in a given case in light of specific facts and circumstances.

**If school administrators have a reasonable suspicion that a student is in possession of an item prohibited by law or school rules, a student and their personal belongings may be subject to a search. The search can include the student's clothing, locker, personal belongings and automobile, if the vehicle is parked on school premises. A search can include scanning students with a portable "wand" style metal detector, screening by the nurse to determine if a student is under the influence, and searching the student's personal belongings. If the school has reasonable suspicion that the student possesses an item prohibited by law or school rules, and if the student refuses to a search and/or to answer questions, the school may construe this as an admission and take appropriate disciplinary action.**

\*Existing language in normal font

\*\*New, proposed added language in bold font

**File: BDG - SCHOOL ATTORNEY**

It will be the duty of the counsel for the Committee to advise the School Committee and the Superintendent on the specific legal problems submitted to him/her. He/she will attend meetings upon request and will be sufficiently familiar with Committee policies, practices, and actions under these policies, and with requirements of the school law to enable him/her to offer the necessary legal advice.

A decision to seek legal advice or assistance on behalf of the Revere Public Schools will be made by the Committee. The Superintendent may also take such action at the direction of the Committee.

Many types of legal assistance are routine and do not require specific Committee approval or prior notice. However, when the Superintendent concludes that unusual types or amounts of professional legal service may be required, he/she will advise the Committee and seek either initial or continuing authorization for such service.

The School Committee may use the services provided by the city solicitor. The Committee and the Superintendent may seek his/her services to counsel and represent the school system at various times.

SOURCE: MASC

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. [71:37E](#); [71:37F](#)

**File: JH - STUDENT ABSENCES AND EXCUSES**

Regular and punctual school attendance is essential for success in school. The Committee recognizes that parents of children attending our schools have special rights as well as responsibilities, one of which is to ensure that their children attend school regularly, in accordance with state law.

Therefore, students may be excused temporarily from school attendance for the following reasons: illness or quarantine; bereavement or serious illness in family; weather so inclement as to endanger the health of the child; and observance of major religious holidays.

A child may also be excused for other exceptional reasons with approval of the Principal or designee.

A student's understanding of the importance of day-to-day schoolwork is an important factor in the shaping of his character. Parents can help their children by not allowing them to miss school needlessly.

Accordingly, parents will provide a written explanation for the absence or tardiness of a child. This will be required in advance for types of absences where advance notice is possible.

In instances of chronic or irregular absence reportedly due to illness, the school administration may request a physician's statement certifying such absences to be justified.

**Student Absence Notification Program**

Each Principal will notify a student's parent/guardian within 3 days of the student's absence in the event the parent/guardian has not informed the school of the absence.

Each Principal or designee shall meet with any student, and that student's parent/guardian, who has missed five (5) or more unexcused school days (a school day shall be equal to two (2) or more class periods in the same day) in a school year. The meeting shall be to develop action steps to improve student attendance and shall be developed jointly by the Principal or designee, the student, and the student's parent/guardian. The parties may seek input from other relevant school staff and/or officials from relevant public safety, health and human service, housing, and nonprofit agencies.

**Dropout Prevention**

No student who has not graduated from high school shall be considered permanently removed from school unless the Principal has sent notice to a student, and that student's parent/guardian, who has been absent from school for ten (10) consecutive days of unexcused absence. The notice shall be sent within five (5) days of the tenth consecutive day of absence and shall offer at least 2 dates and times within the next ten (10) days for an exit interview with the Superintendent or designee, the student, and the student's parent/guardian. The notice shall be in both English and the primary language of the home, if applicable. The notice shall include contact information for scheduling the exit interview and shall indicate the parties shall reach an agreement on the date/time of the interview within the ten (10) day timeframe. The timeframe may be extended at the request of the parent/guardian and no extension shall exceed 14 days.

The Superintendent or designee may proceed with any interview without a parent/guardian present, provided the Superintendent has documented a good faith effort to include the parent/guardian.

The Superintendent or designee shall convene a team of school staff to participate in the exit interview and shall provide information to the student and, if applicable, the student's parent/guardian on the detrimental effects of early withdrawal from school and the alternative education programs and services available to the student.

SOURCE: MASC

Updated: July 2014

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. [76:1](#); [76:1B](#); [76:16](#); [76:18](#); [76:20](#)