



STONY BROOK SCHOOL

9 FARMER WAY • WESTFORD, MA 01886 • 978-692-2708

Mr. Richard F. McElhinney Jr.
Interim Principal

Mr. Joseph Barnas
Interim Assistant Principal

School Advisory Council 2021-2022

The Stony Brook School Advisory Council collaborates respectfully and efficiently while developing and assessing goals towards a common objective in a fun environment that fosters listening and sharing and encourages feedback.

Date of Meeting: March 22, 2022

Time: **2:15** Location: Large Conference Room- Stony Brook School

Council Members:

Principal	Rick McElhinney	Present
Parent	Prajakta Kale	Absent
Parent	Pooja Krishnamurthy	Present
Parent	Seema Pusalkar	Present
Parent	Tom Hinkle	Absent
Parent	Arty Mourtzinos	Absent
Faculty	Michele Dulczewski	Present
Faculty	Mary Larkin	Absent
Community	Beverly Doucette	Absent
	Joe Barnas	Present

Agenda:

- Review [Minutes](#) from 2/15/22
- [Student Handbook](#)
 - Review and discuss

Discussion:

- Approved minutes from 2/15/22
- Student Handbook updates
 - Make updates in Religious Observances section to Policy 5203 about accommodations. Ensure that the wording reflects changes School Committee made. (pg. 42 Bullying 5304 pg. 45 Harassment 5303 pg. 47 Hazing 5305)
 - Remove the “prohibition of chewing gum” from the list
 - Section 6 Student Suspension -- pg. 33 “Disrespectful Speech” Should we define it for clarification? Can we clarify hateful/racist/bigoted speech and should it be separated from “disrespectful”? Can add another category to make sure hateful/racist/bigoted speech is addressed. Use “including but not limited to...”
 - Can be a double edged sword. Some ambiguity can be helpful when dealing with individual cases.

- Student dress code 5233(?). Specificity has been removed. Concern - It can be subjective. How can we “standardize” it to make sure it is consistent? Especially with students this age? Ultimately, it is not a winnable battle as clothing is a freedom of expression.
- pg. 57 P5325 Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Student Can we add some salient points from policy 5303 here rather than to just refer to the policy, for example pronoun usage, so that it is emphasized? Ex: Google profile pronouns changed yet are not addressed in that way by faculty in classroom. Confusing for the student.
- pg. 32 Give hate speech a section of its own, as we did with alcohol, drugs, tobacco. Warrants being called out.
- Adjourned at 3:00 PM.