Information Sheet – 09/08/2020 - Board of Trustees Meeting

TO: Board of Trustees Item: 8.2

FR: Celli Coeville

DATE: September 2, 2020

RE: Revised Administrative Regulation, AR 4030, Nondiscrimination in Employment, Consider for Adoption

Administrative Regulation 4030, Nondiscrimination in Employment, has been updated to reflect New Federal Regulations (85 Fed. Reg. 30026) which require that allegations of sexual harassment that meet the federal definition be investigated through Title IX complaint procedures, as described in AR 4119.12/4219.12/4319.12 – Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures, rather than the complaint procedures detailed in this regulation.

I've highlighted the proposed changes and indicated the differences in red font.

Recommended Action: Approve revised AR 4030, Nondiscrimination in Employment

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Cautionary Notice: The following administrative regulation reflects federal Title IX regulations added by 85 Fed. Reg. 30026, effective August 14, 2020, which establish a process for investigating and resolving allegations of conduct that meets the federal definition of sexual harassment. The federal regulations preempt any conflicting state law or regulations, but the interaction between federal and state law is not always clear. Districts should consult legal counsel if questions about a potential conflict arise. Districts should also note that 18 states, including California, have sued the U.S. Department of Education to stop the implementation of these regulations. A preliminary injunction seeking to postpone the effective date of the regulations and prohibit their enforcement is currently pending. If the court grants the injunction, portions of the following administrative regulation will not take effect.

Note: Pursuant to Government Code 11138 and 2 CCR 11023, districts are mandated to adopt rules and regulations to ensure that district programs and activities are free from unlawful discriminatory practices. Pursuant to Government Code 12940, protections against discrimination apply to employees, job applicants, persons who serve in unpaid internship or other limited-duration programs to gain unpaid work experience, volunteers, and independent contractors.

All allegations of discrimination in employment, including those involving an employee, job applicant, intern, volunteer, or person contracted to provide services to the district shall be investigated and resolved in accordance with procedures specified in this administrative regulation.

(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)
(cf. 1240 - Volunteer Assistance)
(cf. 3312 - Contracts)
(cf. 3600 - Consultants)
(cf. 4032 - Reasonable Accommodation)

Note: Many nondiscrimination laws and regulations require identification of an employee who is responsible for compliance with the nondiscrimination laws. For example, pursuant to 34 CFR 104.7, 106.8, and 110.25, the district is required to designate the person(s) responsible for the overall implementation of the requirements of federal laws which prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability, sex, and age, i.e., Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 USC 794), Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 USC 1681-1688), and the Age Discrimination in Employment Act (29 USC 621-634). The district should fill in the blanks below to designate the responsible employee and contact information.

34 CFR 106.8, as amended by 85 Fed. Reg. 30026, requires the district to designate at least one employee to coordinate its responsibilities under Title IX, who must be referred to as the Title IX Coordinator. The Title IX Coordinator may be the same person designated below, or the district may designate different employees to serve these functions. See AR 4119.11/4219.11/4319.11 - Sexual Harassment. The Title IX Coordinator is responsible for receiving complaints of sexual harassment and determining whether they should be handled in accordance with the procedures specified in this administrative regulation or in accordance with AR 4119.12/4219.12/4319.12 - Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures; see section on "Complaint Procedure" below.

The district designates the position identified below as its coordinator for nondiscrimination in employment (coordinator) to ~~coordinate~~ organize and manage the district's efforts to comply with state and federal nondiscrimination laws and to answer inquiries regarding the district's nondiscrimination policies. The coordinator may be contacted at:

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Director of Human Resources
1219 Whispering Wind Drive
209-836-3388
ncastro@jsdtracy.com

Measures to Prevent Discrimination

Note: Pursuant to Government Code 12940 and 2 CCR 11023, the district is required to take all reasonable steps to prevent unlawful discrimination and harassment. 2 CCR 11023 specifies certain requirements to be included in the district's policy. The following section reflects the requirements of 2 CCR 11023 and other applicable laws or regulations, as indicated.

To prevent unlawful discrimination, harassment, and retaliation in district employment, the Superintendent or designee shall implement the following measures:

Note: Pursuant to Government Code 12950, districts are required to post the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing's (DFEH) posters entitled California Law Prohibits Workplace Discrimination and Harassment and Transgender Rights in the Workplace, as provided in item #1. DFEH rules require that these materials be posted electronically and in every location where the district has employees (e.g., district office, hiring office, each school site). These posters and the rules for posting are available on the DFEH web site.

In addition, 2 CCR 11049 requires posting a notice of the rights and obligations of employees who are pregnant, have a related medical condition, or are recovering from childbirth. Also see AR 4161.8/4261.8/4361.8 - Family Care and Medical Leave.

1. Display in a prominent and accessible location at every work site where the district has employees and post electronically ~~on computers~~ in a conspicuous location on computers for employee use, ~~the~~ up-to-date California Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH) posters ~~in regard~~ ~~to~~ on the prohibition of workplace discrimination and harassment, ~~and~~ the rights of transgender employees, and the rights and obligations of employees who are pregnant, have a related medical condition, or are recovering from childbirth (Government Code 12950; 2 CCR 11013, 11023, 11049)

(cf. 4119.11/4219.11/4319.11 - Sexual Harassment)
(cf. 4161.8/4261.8/4361.8 – Family Care and Medical Leave)

2. Publicize the district's nondiscrimination policy and regulation, including the complaint procedures and the coordinator's contact information, by: (5 CCR 4960; 34 CFR 100.6, 106.9)

a. Including them in each announcement, bulletin, or application form that is used in employee recruitment

b. Posting them in all district schools and offices, including staff lounges and other prominent locations

c. Posting them on the district's web site and providing easy access to them through district-

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supported social media, when available

(cf. 1113 - District and School Web Sites)
(cf. 1114 - District-Sponsored Social Media)
(cf. 4111/4211/4311 - Recruitment and Selection)

3. Disseminate the district's nondiscrimination policy and administrative regulation to all employees by one or more of the following methods: (2 CCR 11023)

a. Printing and providing a copy of the policy to all employees, with an acknowledgment form for each employee to sign and return

b. Sending the policy via email with an acknowledgment return form

c. Posting the policy on the district intranet with a tracking system ensuring all employees have read and acknowledged receipt of the policies

d. Discussing the policy and regulation with employees upon hire and/or during a new hire orientation session

e. Any other way that ensures employees receive and understand the policy

(cf. 4112.9/4212.9/4312.9 - Employee Notifications)

4. Provide to employees a handbook which contains information that clearly describes the district's nondiscrimination policy, procedures for filing a complaint, and resources available to employees who believe they have been the victim of any discriminatory or harassing behavior

Note: **Optional** item #5 below provides for training regarding the district's discrimination policy and reporting procedures. For requirements specifically pertaining to sexual harassment training, see AR 4119.11/4219.11/4319.11 - Sexual Harassment.

5. Provide training to employees, volunteers, and interns regarding the district's nondiscrimination policy, including what constitutes unlawful discrimination, harassment, and retaliation and how and to whom a report of an incident should be made

The district may also provide bystander intervention training to employees ~~that~~ which includes information and practical guidance on how to recognize potentially problematic behaviors and which may motivate ~~motivates~~ them to take action when they observe such behaviors. The training and education may include exercises to provide employees with the skills and confidence to intervene as appropriate and to provide them with resources they can call upon that support their intervention. (Government Code 12950.2)

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(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)
(cf. 4231 - Staff Development)
(cf. 4331 - Staff Development)

6. Periodically review the district's recruitment, hiring, and promotion processes and regularly monitor the terms, conditions, and privileges of employment to ensure district compliance with law

7. For any district facility where 10 percent of employees have a language other than English as their spoken language, translate the policy into every language spoken by at least 10 percent of the workforce (2 CCR 11023)

Note: 2 CCR 11023 mandates that a district's policy include a complaint process with specified requirements. Some of the requirements of 2 CCR 11023 are similar to those required under existing case law.

Courts have held that liability may be mitigated for hostile environment employment discrimination when (1) the employer took reasonable care to prevent and promptly correct the discriminatory or harassing conduct (i.e., provided a complaint procedure) and (2) the aggrieved employee unreasonably failed to take advantage of corrective opportunities offered by the employer (i.e., failure to file a complaint). In its June 1999 Enforcement Guidance: Vicarious Employer Liability for Unlawful Harassment by Supervisors, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) outlines the elements of an effective complaint procedure to include (1) a clear explanation of the process; (2) protection against retaliation; (3) designation of multiple individuals authorized to receive complaints; (4) a mechanism for prompt, thorough, and impartial investigation; (5) assurance of immediate and appropriate corrective action; and (6) information about time frames for filing charges with EEOC or DFEH.

While EEOC's guidance recommends a "prompt" investigation, neither the law nor EEOC delineates a specific time frame for resolution. EEOC's guidance acknowledges that whether an investigation is considered "prompt" may vary depending on the seriousness and complexity of the circumstances and that intermediate measures may be necessary to prevent further harassment during the investigation. The following section, including the listed timelines, is consistent with EEOC's guidance and should be modified to reflect district practice.

In lieu of using the procedures described below, complaints of sexual harassment must be addressed through the federal Title IX complaint procedures established pursuant to 34 CFR 106.44-106.45, as added by 85 Fed. Reg. 30026, if the alleged conduct meets the federal definition of sexual harassment. Pursuant to 34 CFR 106.30, Title IX sexual harassment includes (1) a district employee conditioning the provision of a district aid, benefit, or service on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct; (2) unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the district's education program or activity; or (3) sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking as defined in 20 USC 1092 and 34 USC 12291. See BP/AR 4119.11/4219.11/4319.11 - Sexual Harassment and AR 4119.12/4219.12/4319.12 - Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures.

Complaints of sexual harassment shall be investigated and resolved in accordance with AR 4119.12/4219.12/4319.12 - Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures if the alleged conduct meets the definition of sexual harassment pursuant to 34 CFR 106.30.

Any other complaint alleging unlawful discrimination or harassment shall be addressed in

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accordance with the following procedures:

1. Notice and Receipt of Complaint: A complainant may inform a direct supervisor, another supervisor, the coordinator, the Superintendent or, if available, a complaint hotline or an ombudsman. The ~~employee's~~ complainant's direct supervisor may be bypassed in filing a complaint ~~where~~ when the supervisor is the subject of the complaint.

The complainant may ~~file a written complaint in accordance with this procedure or may~~ first attempt to resolve the situation informally with the ~~employee's~~ complainant's supervisor before filing a written complaint.

A supervisor or manager who has received information about an incident of discrimination or harassment, or has observed such an incident, shall report it to the coordinator, whether or not the complainant files a written complaint.

The written complaint should contain the complainant's name, the name of the individual who allegedly committed the act, a description of the incident, the date and location where the incident occurred, any witnesses who may have relevant information, ~~other~~ any available evidence of the discrimination or harassment, and any other pertinent information which may assist in investigating and resolving the complaint.

2. Investigation Process: The coordinator shall initiate an impartial investigation of an allegation of discrimination or harassment within five business days of receiving notice of the alleged discriminatory or harassing behavior, regardless of whether a written complaint has been filed or whether the written complaint is complete.

The coordinator shall meet with the complainant to describe the district's complaint procedure and discuss the actions being sought by the complainant in response to the allegation. The coordinator shall inform the complainant that the investigation of the allegations will be fair, timely, and thorough and will be conducted in a manner that provides all parties due process and reaches reasonable conclusions based on the evidence collected. The coordinator shall also inform the parties that the investigation will be kept confidential to the extent possible, but that some information may be revealed as necessary to conduct an effective investigation.

(cf. 3580 - District Records)
(cf. 4112.6/4212.6/4312.6 - Personnel Files)
(cf. 4119.23/4219.23/4319.23 - Unauthorized Release of Confidential/Privileged Information)

If the coordinator determines that a detailed fact-finding investigation is necessary, the investigation shall begin immediately. As part of this investigation, the coordinator should interview the complainant, the person accused, and other persons who could be expected to have relevant information.

The coordinator shall track and document the progress of the investigation to ensure reasonable

progress and shall inform the parties as necessary.

When necessary to carry out the investigation or to protect employee safety, the coordinator may discuss the complaint with the Superintendent or designee, district legal counsel, or the district's risk manager.

The coordinator shall also determine whether interim measures, such as scheduling changes, transfers, or leaves, need to be taken before the investigation is completed in order to ~~ensure that~~ prevent further incidents ~~are prevented~~. The coordinator shall ensure that such interim measures do not constitute retaliation.

3. Written Report on Findings and Remedial/Corrective Action: No more than 20 business days after receiving the complaint, the coordinator shall conclude the investigation and prepare a written report of the findings. This timeline may be extended for good cause. If an extension is needed, the coordinator shall notify the parties and explain the reasons for the extension.

The report shall include the decision and the reasons for the decision and shall summarize the steps taken during the investigation. If a determination has been made that discrimination or harassment occurred, the report shall also include any corrective action(s) that have been or will be taken to address the behavior, provide appropriate options for remedial actions and resolutions for the complainant, and ensure that retaliation or further discrimination or harassment is prevented. The report shall be presented to the Superintendent or designee.

A summary of the findings shall be presented to the complainant and the person accused.

4. Appeal to the Governing Board: The complainant or the person accused may appeal any findings to the Board within 10 business days of receiving the written report of the coordinator's findings. The Superintendent or designee shall provide the Board with all information presented during the investigation. Upon receiving an appeal, the Board shall schedule a hearing as soon as practicable. Any complaint against a district employee shall be addressed in closed session in accordance with law. The Board shall render its decision within 10 business days.

(cf. 1312.1 - Complaints Concerning District Employees)
(cf. 9321 - Closed Session Purposes and Agendas)

Other Remedies

Note: Items #1-3 below state the time limits within which complaints must be filed.
EEOC's guidance states that it is important for employers' nondiscrimination policies to contain information about timeframes for filing charges of unlawful discrimination or harassment with EEOC or DFEH. Employees should be informed that the deadline for filing charges starts to run from the last date of the unlawful act, not from the conclusion of the district's complaint investigation. Pursuant to DFEH procedures, DFEH will automatically forward any complaint it has accepted for investigation to EEOC when the matter falls within EEOC's jurisdiction.

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In addition to filing a discrimination or harassment complaint with the district, a person may file a complaint with either DFEH or the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). The time limits for filing such complaints are as follows:

Note: As amended by AB 9 (Ch. 709, Statutes of 2019), Government Code 12960 extends the period of time in which a complaint alleging employment discrimination pursuant to Government Code 12940-12952 may be filed with DFEH, from one year to three years following the alleged discriminatory act(s). That period may be extended under certain circumstances. Districts should consult legal counsel if any questions arise.

1. ~~To file~~ For filing a ~~valid~~ complaint with DFEH alleging a violation of Government Code 12940-12952, within ~~one year~~ three years of the alleged discriminatory act(s), unless an exception exists pursuant to Government Code 12960 (Government Code 12960)

Note: 42 USC 2000e-5 specifies that a person must file a discrimination complaint with EEOC within 180 days of the alleged discriminatory act. Pursuant to 42 USC 2000e-5, the 180-day timeline for compensation discrimination starts when the discriminatory paycheck is received and that each discriminatory paycheck restarts the timeline for the filing of a complaint.

2. ~~To file~~ For filing a ~~valid~~ complaint ~~directly~~ with EEOC, within 180 days of the alleged discriminatory act(s) (42 USC 2000e-5)

3. ~~To file~~ For filing a ~~valid~~ complaint with EEOC after first filing a complaint with DFEH, within 300 days of the alleged discriminatory act(s) or within 30 days after the termination of proceedings by DFEH, whichever is earlier (42 USC 2000e-5)