

**EAST STROUDSBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**SPECIAL MEETING FOR DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF THE CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT AND
THE STUDENT ATHLETIC HANDBOOK FOR THE 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR
AND THE PRINTING THEREOF**

August 4, 2016

Carl T. Secor Administration Center – Board Room

5:00 p.m.

Minutes

- I. **President**, Gary Summers called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. **Board Secretary**, Patricia Rosado called the roll.
- II. **Board Members present:** Ronald Bradley, Robert Cooke, Robert Gress, Robert Huffman, Debbie Kulick, Wayne Rohner, Gary Summers, Judy Summers and Lisa VanWhy.
- School personnel present:** Jeff Bader, Joanne M. Bohrman, Ben Brenneman, Josh Fuller, Fred Mill, Ryan Moran, William Riker, Patricia Rosado, Will Vitulli and Steve Zall. Chris Brown, Solicitor.

III. **Community members present:** None.

IV. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

ACTION BY THE BOARD:

Motion was made by Robert Cooke to approve this agenda for August 4, 2016. Motion was seconded by Debbie Kulick and carried unanimously, 9-0.

V. **ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE BOARD**

None

VI. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** -- Limited to Agenda Items

None

VII. **STUDENT ITEMS**

A. **2016-2017 SY Code of Student Conduct**

1.

ACTION BY THE BOARD:

Motion was made by Debbie Kulick to approve the Code of Student Conduct for the 2016-2017 school year, as presented. Motion was seconded by Robert Huffman and passed 7-2. Ronald Bradley and Robert Gress voted no.

(Backup Available on ESASD Website)

Discussion:

Mrs. Kulick asked what does brazen insubordination mean. Mr. Zall said that it means when something is done intentionally and not as a one-time situation.

Mr. Gress said that on page 38, in the fighting section, it says that any student engaged in fighting will be suspended, at a minimum, from school. For example, his son should not let someone hit him and wait there until someone comes to help. Mr. Gress said he does not mean that they should beat each other up but they should be able to defend themselves. Mr. Zall said

fighting is identified as two active people involved. Having to defend and push off is not labeled as fighting but assault or simple assault. When it is identified as a fight, we know it is two engaged in physical conduct. It is separate from physical aggression or pushing or that type of nature. Mr. Gress said he understands what Mr. Zall is saying but if someone hits you, you should be able to defend yourself. Years ago, some students would antagonize student athletes to fight in order to get them suspended and thrown off the teams. Mr. Zall said that if they are not identified as being in the fight then they may not be suspended. Mr. Gress said that it does not say that in the handbook.

Mr. Bradley asked what about if you have a video showing that one student is being attacked and they are defending themselves but the video does not hold any credibility. Mr. Zall said they take video and witnesses into account. Mr. Bradley said there have been a number of circumstances where you can see who was fighting and who was not and they are both being punished. Mr. Zall said there are a lot of situations of students fighting and others defending themselves. Our Code of Conduct is in place to protect all children. Mr. Bradley said when you can clearly see what is transpiring on the video, he does not see why it is questioned. Mr. Zall said they can have further discussion on an individual basis.

Mr. Rohner said that Mr. Gress mentioned page 38 but he does not have that page. Mr. Gress said this was not part of the changes that were made; therefore, the entire Code of Student Conduct can be found on the website. The Board members received only the changes.

2.

ACTION BY THE BOARD:

Motion was made by Debbie Kulick to ratify and affirm the authority of the Business Office to execute a purchase order with Scranton Printing Co. for the printing of 7,400 copies of the 2016-2017 Code of Student Conduct at a total cost of \$9,324.00, the lowest quote received by the District. Motion was seconded by Robert Huffman and carried unanimously, 9-0.

Discussion:

Mr. Rohner asked if this was the same motion they approved at the last Board meeting. Mr. Summers said the motion in the previous agenda was for the calendar. Mr. Gress asked if this motion mean that the book was already printed. Mr. Brown said the motion means that the item was budgeted. Mr. Gress said that this Code of Student Conduct should not be printed because students do not read it and there is no penalty for not returning the signature page confirming that they read it. Mr. Summers said that he hopes this is the last year they are printing something that not everyone is reading. What percentage of our students do not return the signature page? He keeps hearing that nobody reads it. Mr. Brown said he believes there are things in the book that are federally required and the law is unclear whether having it on the website is sufficient. Pages may be paired down in the future. Mr. Summers said let's figure out what is legally required and let's focus on printing those items.

B. Student Athletic Handbook

ACTION BY THE BOARD:

Motion was made by Debbie Kulick to approve the Student Athletic Handbook for the 2016-2017 school year, as presented. Motion was seconded by Lisa VanWhy and carried unanimously, 9-0.

(Backup Available on ESASD Website)

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS/INFORMATION

ACTION BY THE BOARD:

Motion was made by Robert Cooke to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Wayne Rohner and carried unanimously, 9-0.

IX. ADJOURNMENT - 5:14 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia L. Rosado
Board Secretary