

**EAST STROUDSBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING**

February 27, 2017

(There was no January meeting due to Board Appreciation which was then rescheduled to March)

Carl T. Secor Administration Building

5:00 P.M.

MINUTES

- I. Meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m. by Mr. Cooke.
- II. **Policy Committee Members Present were:** Robert Cooke, Robert Huffman, and Wayne Rohner. Judy Summers was absent from the meeting.
- III. **School Personnel Present were:** Jeffrey Bader, Eric Forsyth, Dr. William Riker, and Debra Wisotsky.
- IV. **Members of the Public Present were:** Sherry Acevedo
- V. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

ACTION BY THE COMMITTEE: Motion was made by Robert Huffman to approve the minutes for December 19, 2016 (pages 1-2). Motion was seconded by Wayne Rohner and carried unanimously, 3-0.

VI. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

ACTION BY THE COMMITTEE: Motion was made by Robert Huffman to approve this agenda for February 27, 2017 (page 1), with members of the Committee reserving the right to add to the agenda and take further action as the Committee deems appropriate. Motion was seconded by Wayne Rohner and carried unanimously, 3-0.

VII. **SCHEDULE OF FUTURE DATES/TIME/LOCATION FOR 2017 POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

March (no mtg.)	June 19	September 18
April 24	July 17	October 16
May 15	August 21	November 20

ACTION BY THE COMMITTEE: Motion was made by Robert Huffman to approve the 2017 Policy Review Committee Dates listed above. All meetings will be held at 5:00pm in the Carl T. Secor Administration Center. Motion was seconded by Wayne Rohner and carried unanimously, 3-0.

VIII. **POLICIES FOR DISCUSSION:**

- a. Policy #251 Homeless Students – Mr. Forsyth shared that revisions to this policy reflect recent changes in federal law and some definition changes. Mr. Rohner inquired if the district actually has any homeless students. Mr. Forsyth replied yes, we have by definition over 100 students who, under federal guidelines, experience loss of housing out of their control, such as by fire, flood, eviction, not by a matter of choice.
- b. Policy #255 Educational Stability for Children in Foster Care – New Policy—Mr. Forsyth shared that precipitating law removed the “students awaiting foster care” definition from Policy 251 and mandated that C&Y agencies work together with school districts to address these students not

covered under McKinney Vento. The law addresses key issues regarding transportation, designation of a district Point of Contact, and school stability requirements. You will see an addendum MOU transportation plan for foster care students on the agenda for approval that corresponds with this new policy.

- c. Policy #702 Gifts, Scholarships, and Donations – Mr. Bader shared that current policy had no formal mechanism for gifting/establishing scholarship funds to be maintained by the district. The district has the fiduciary responsibility rather than the grantor to establish criteria that must be included in the application when approached by donors.
- d. Policy #702.1 Donations Containing Advertisement – New Policy – Mr. Bader stated that, again, the district does not have a formal mechanism regulating the way in which we can accept donations and/or gifts in exchange for sponsorships/commercial advertising. Mr. Bader worked with Chris Brown on the drafted language for this policy. He stated that Administration is looking for the committee’s guidance on whether they wish to allow the donation of classroom items in recognition of a donor, for instance, a microscope with a plaque simply stating “Donated by ...”. Mr. Bader also stated that allowing sponsorships will create a source of additional revenue for the district. Mr. Rohner stated that other districts in the Lehigh Valley already have ads on their stadium fencing, so “I don’t see why not”. Mr. Huffman inquired whether the Board would oversee the approval of groups looking to advertise within the district. Mr. Bader stated, yes the Board would have that ability. Mr. Huffman also suggested that there be language stating that the district has the ability to take down worn and/or damaged signs. Mr. Bader suggested that Administration will develop further language in the policy to address recognition vs. advertising and perhaps an AR with a sunset provision on how long, standard size for signage, and developing a contract stipulating cost and length for signage leasing. Mr. Bader will consult with other districts for guidance on their procedures and will report back at the next meeting.
- e. Policy #707 & 707A Use of Facilities/Schedule of Fees – Mr. Forsyth shared that Administration tweaked the policy reflecting revisions discussed at the last Board work session. Based on their direction, implementing a classification for all 501 (c)(3) entities would now, “open the district up as a 24/7, all you can eat buffet”. Mr. Forsyth did not feel that this was the Board’s true intent. He stated Class 5 out-of-state entities that pay fees, such as Jersey Surf Drum & Bugle Corp., would either no longer be permitted at all or file under the 501 (c)(3) classification in Pennsylvania and be granted access free of charge. This will result in increased usage/wear and tear on facilities and eliminate revenue altogether. Groups that are currently listed as Class 3 Non-School Related paying facility fees, such as Pocono Community Church, would now also fall into the 501 (c)(3) classification and also have facility fees waived.

Mr. Forsyth stated that there is no easy fix. If the Board wishes to accommodate specific groups, they will have to provide equal access to all similarly situated groups or risk litigation. Mr. Forsyth asked whether the Board wanted to revisit earlier discussions that considered what the actual event was: Whether an entity’s event benefitted district students and the district’s mission or the event was a community fundraiser benefitting the individual entity? Whether an entity is providing a free service or charging participants?

The committee decided to postpone moving the policy forward so that the entire Board could discuss Policy 707 again during their next work session.

VIII. POLICIES ON THE TABLE FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

- a. Policy #221 Dress & Grooming
- b. Policy #113.2 Behavior Support
- c. Booster Clubs

Public Participation:

Sherry Acevedo, Executive Director of Stroud Region Open Space & Recreation, was present to discuss their Use of Facility application for expanding their Summer Kids Camp, which currently operates out of Dansbury Park, to also include an additional location at HS South for the summer of 2017. Stroud Region receives grant funding to provide low income families and children in foster care with an 8-week summer camp. Ms. Acevedo explained that the district has an intergovernmental agreement with Stroud Region Open Space which includes in-kind support. The district and Stroud Region recently submitted a grant to develop a new softball field in the borough that the district will be able to utilize free of charge. She also explained that last year, the E.S. Food Services Department partnered with them to offer a free Summer Feeding Program with breakfast and lunch served to all campers.

Ms. Acevedo noted that she understood the committee was placing applications on the agenda on a monthly basis while the committee works on developing a new policy. She asked that the committee consider allowing their application to be placed on the March agenda so that they can start accepting campers' application for the summer knowing that they would have the additional space at HS South to accommodate more campers in their program.

IX. ADVISORY RECOMMENDATIONS

ACTION BY THE COMMITTEE: Motion was made by Wayne Rohner to authorize and direct the administration to post the following item(s) for PUBLIC REVIEW during the month of February and subsequent Board action in March: Policy # 251 Homeless Students, 255 Educational Stability for Children in Foster Care, and 702 Gifts, Scholarships, and Donations. Motion was seconded by Robert Huffman and carried unanimously 3-0.

X. ADJOURNMENT: 6:02 p.m.

ACTION BY THE COMMITTEE: Motion to adjourn was made by Robert Huffman. Motion was seconded by Wayne Rohner and carried unanimously, 3-0.

Next Meeting: April 24, 2017 at 5:00 p.m.

Respectively submitted by,
Debra Wisotsky