

**EAST STROUDSBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING
OCTOBER 16, 2017
Carl T. Secor Administration Building
5:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

- I. Meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Mrs. Summers.
- II. **Policy Committee Members Present were:** Robert Huffman, Wayne Rohner, and Judy Summers. Robert Cooke.
- III. **School Personnel Present were:** Jeffrey Bader, Eric Forsyth, Frederick Mill, Ryan Moran, Dr. William Riker, and Debra Wisotsky.
- IV. **Members of the Public Present were:** Thomas Jones, Riley Maye, Sharon Maly Cramer
- V. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

ACTION BY THE COMMITTEE: Motion was made by Robert Huffman to approve this agenda for October 16, 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 Robert Cooke and carried unanimously, 4-0.

VI. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

ACTION BY THE COMMITTEE: Motion was made by Robert Cooke to approve the minutes for September 25, 2017 (pages 1-3). Motion was seconded by Robert Huffman and carried unanimously, 4-0.

Mrs. Summers noted that being there was quite a full agenda tonight, she was aware that two guests in attendance were specifically interested in discussing Policy 707, so she asked the committee if it would be alright to move Policy 707 to the top of the list to allow these gentlemen time to address their concerns and then move on with the other agenda items.

VII. **POLICIES FOR DISCUSSION:**

- a. Policy 707 Use of Facilities & Schedule of Fees—Mr. Forsyth stated that administration made some additional revisions to the policy, including establishing an effective date, dropping the definition of normal business operating hours along with the classification of local non-profit/tax exempt entities. He also noted on page 2 that language was modified with regard to forms being submitted to the Superintendent's office. Rather, the location will be listed on the form. Page 3 - remove the word "shall" and replace with "may", to read "An application fee may be assessed in accordance with the 707A-Schedule of Fees. Mr. Forsyth then inquired whether the Board wanted to choose the number of uses permitted by Class IV organizations. He stated that in keeping with the policy language, "use is not intended to be permanent or ongoing for an extended time". Following discussion, the committee decided that the window for applications being submitted 30 days prior to the event and no longer than 120 days allows other organizations ample opportunity to apply for facility use, thereby not allowing an organization to monopolize and/or be permanent for an extended time.

Public Participation: Thomas Jones and Riley Maye

Mr. Jones stated both he and Mr. Maye were there on behalf of Inner City Vision Basketball. He asked for clarification on some of the items discussed as he did not have a copy of the most recent draft, especially with regard to the schedule of fees and whether they are broken down per event or by the hour. Mr. Forsyth stated, for example if you use a high school gymnasium for your basketball tournament, as a Class IV organization, the facility fee would be \$1,125 for the event. Mr. Jones stated that their tournament runs from Friday-Sunday, so would the facility fee be \$1,125 for the length of the tournament. Mr. Forsyth replied, no, policy states each event must terminate by 10:30 PM, so the facilities fee would be for three separate events (or \$3,375) as well as any associated personnel fees deemed necessary.

Mr. Jones expressed concern with the rates being so high for this group as well as other non-profit organizations who would not be able to afford such fees. Dr. Riker suggested that organizations could offer events that were exclusive to East Stroudsburg residents which would bump them up to a Class III, thereby avoiding facility fees. Mr. Maye shared that his basketball team gains experience and becomes better by playing teams from different areas which can help them earn scholarships to college. His tournament brings teams in from Brooklyn and from Canada. Mr. Jones added that they not only teach basketball, they teach respect, discipline and a positive attitude to their kids. Both men expressed that they would like to continue to offer this program here in East Stroudsburg and asked that the Board take another look at the schedule of fees to see if they can find ways to lessen the financial burden on these organization so that they can continue to offer these important programs in the community.

Mrs. Summers thanked both Mr. Jones and Mr. Maye for the fine work that they do volunteering and providing these programs for the community. She also explained while she understands their concerns, the Board also needs to be fiscally responsible to taxpayers of the district, allowing use by its residents while limiting the wear and tear on facilities by other groups choosing to come here because our fees might be less expensive than elsewhere. While the district likes to offer programs to its residents, the district should also not be incurring additional expenses by waiving facility fees and/or personnel fees for groups not from the area.

- b. Policy 103, *103/104 Attachment* – Nondiscrimination in School & Classroom Practice
- c. Policy 103.1, *103.1 Attachment* – Nondiscrimination—Qualified Students with Disabilities
- d. Policy 104, *103/104 Attachment* – Nondiscrimination in Employment/Contract Practices
- e. Policies 248, 348, 448, 548 – Unlawful Harassment – **REPEAL** –combining with Policies 103, 103.1 & 104
- f. Policy 249 Bullying/Cyberbullying

Mr. Forsyth stated that Items b-f above are being revised based on information received through our PSBA Policy News Network. PSBA's policy guides relating to nondiscrimination have been revised to strengthen and clarify what constitutes discrimination and the school entity's obligation to promptly and effectively investigate and resolve complaints of discrimination. These policy updates were based on developments in case law, guidance from the United States Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR) and our solicitor. The reason for merging each guide is to ensure that those responsible for addressing allegations of discrimination have one comprehensive nondiscrimination policy for students and one for employees with a consistent, effective approach to investigations and handling of both discriminatory harassment and other kinds of discrimination claims. Mr. Forsyth stated that the revisions are pretty straightforward and asked that the committee move these along for public review and final approval at the November 20, 2017 Regular School Board meeting.

- g. Policy 150 Comparability of Services -- Policy language relating to assurances required under Title I for equivalence between schools was removed from Policy 103-Nondiscrimination in School and Classroom Practices and placed in a newly created policy guide, 150-Title I - Comparability of Services. This policy will be posted for public review and final approval at the November 20 Regular School Board meeting.

- h. Policy 229 Student Fundraising – Dr. Riker stated that even though language was added based on comments from the previous meeting, he would like to have more time to review this policy. Policy 229 will appear again on next month's Policy Review Committee Meeting Agenda.
- i. Policy 607 Tuition Income – Mr. Forsyth shared that language has been added that tuition rates shall be determined annually for not only the district's brick and mortar schools but also the ESASD Cyber Academy. This policy will be posted for public review and final approval at the November 20 Regular School Board meeting.
- j. Policy 819 Suicide Awareness, Prevention and Response -- This policy was originally drafted in 2015 to comply with the requirements of Act 71; the revised policy reflects current research and recommended practices. For example, the term "mental" health has been changed to "behavioral" health throughout the policy. This policy will be posted for public review and final approval at the November 20 Regular School Board meeting.

VIII. POLICIES ON THE TABLE FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

- a. Policies ?? Booster Clubs
- b. Policy 702.1 Donations Containing Advertisement – New Policy
- c. Policy 917 Parental/Family Involvement
- d. Policy 918 Title I Parental Involvement

VIII. ADVISORY RECOMMENDATIONS

ACTION BY THE COMMITTEE: Motion was made by Robert Huffman to authorize and direct the administration to post the following item(s) for PUBLIC REVIEW during the month of October and subsequent Board action in November: Policies 103 Nondiscrimination in School & Classroom Practice, 103/104 Attachment, 103.1 Nondiscrimination-Qualified Students with Disabilities, 103.1 Attachment, 104 Nondiscrimination in Employment/Contract Practices, 150 Comparability of Services, 249 Bullying/Cyberbullying, 607 Tuition Income, 707 Use of Facilities/707A Schedule of Fees, 819 Suicide Awareness, Prevention & Response and the REPEAL of Policies 248, 348, 448 and 548 Unlawful Harassment. Motion was seconded by Robert Cooke and carried unanimously 4-0.

IX. ADJOURNMENT: 6:00 p.m.

ACTION BY THE COMMITTEE: Motion to adjourn was made by Robert Huffman. Motion was seconded by Robert Cooke and carried unanimously, 4-0.

Next Meeting: November 20, 2017 at 5:00 p.m.

Respectively submitted by,
Debra Wisotsky