

**EAST STROUDSBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING AND TAKING
ACTION ON BOARD MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE AT FOOTBALL GAMES
October 9, 2018 – 7:00 P.M.
Carl T. Secor Administration Building
Minutes**

- I. **President** Robert Huffman called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. **Board Secretary**, Patricia Rosado called the roll.
- II. **Board Members present:** Larry Dymond, Jason Gullstrand, Robert Huffman, Keith Karkut (via speakerphone), Debbie Kulick, Wayne Rohner, Richard Schlameuss, and Lisa VanWhy. George Andrews was absent.
- III. **School personnel present in the Administration Center:** Jennifer Andrews, Lisa Kolcun, Greg Milford, Jr., Fred Mill, Angela Nevin, Denise Rogers, Nancy Rohner and Patricia Rosado. Chris Brown, Solicitor.
- IV. **Community members present in the Administration Center:** Audry Garrett, Maria Hopkins, Rob Rohner and Darryl Sabino.
- Other: Attorney Kevin Walsh - Law Firm of Donald Karpowich of Drums, PA

V. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

ACTION BY THE BOARD:

Motion was made by Richard Schlameuss to adopt this agenda for October 9, 2018, as submitted. Motion was seconded by Debbie Kulick and carried unanimously, 8-0.

VI. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

- a. Limited to Agenda Item (3 min. ea.)
- A. Mr. Kevin Walsh, Esq., said that he is from the Law Firm of Donald Karpowich and he represents Wayne Rohner in regards to the issue that is on the agenda tonight. He requested that the Board members go into an Executive Session in order to discuss this personnel issue. Mr. Chris Brown said if at any time the Board members begins to discuss issues that should be discussed in Executive Session, he will recommend that they go at that time.
- B. Ms. Audrey Garrett asked if Board members have to have clearances to be allowed into the buildings since they will be around students.
- C. Ms. Denise Rogers said although she is not a resident of the district she would like to speak. Mr. Brown said since no one else is looking to speak, she can come forward. She distributed signs that are all over the outside at all of the stadium fences/gates location supporting the policy that the Board is speaking about tonight. She also brought an incident report from the North Football Coach and Mr. Dailey about what occurred last week at Pleasant Valley. She also has a signed affidavit from Mr. Ed Christian, South Football Coach, of who he would like on the side lines. Mr. Brown said she can submit the documents as long as she realizes that they become public items, therefore, if anyone from the public wants to see them, they can.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

a. LOCAL BOARD PROCEDURES

i. 002 – Authority and Powers

ACTION BY THE BOARD:

Motion was made by Keith Karkut that the Board of School Directors shall comply with PIAA Policy for Spectator Decorum at Outdoor Events for all district football games. The PIAA Policy provides that “The Principal, Athletic Director, Coaches, team physician, team trainer, players in uniform, managers, ball holders, and statisticians are the only persons permitted in the team box.” Motion was seconded by Richard Schlameuss. A roll call vote was taken and passed 7-1. Larry Dymond, Jason Gullstrand, Robert Huffman, Keith Karkut, Debbie Kulick, Richard Schlameuss and Lisa VanWhy voted yes. Wayne Rohner voted no.

Discussion by the Board:

Mr. Karkut said he does not believe that the motion should read that it is PIAA standards but it should state that it is a district policy and that the district will follow PIAA standards. Mr. Brown said that although the PIAA policy only applies to playoffs games the district will implement this policy at all games. Mr. Rohner asked does the district not have a policy that prohibit individuals on the sidelines at games. Mr. Brown said he is not aware of a policy. Mr. Rohner said if we do not have it and since he is not aware of the PIAA rules and regulations, is there is section of definitions on the PIAA? Why does the district not have a policy? He cannot believe this community has never had an issue of this nature. He remembers football players on the sidelines. We shouldn't prohibit past players on the sidelines. He said this issue is only about him. He said he's been on the sidelines since he assisted with bringing back Ed Christian as the football coach. He has a positive relationship with the athletes. The district lacks professionalism, integrity and ethics. The school district should prevent the officiating group from the calls they make on our teams. This has occurred since 2009. He supports the teams and is concerned about their health and well-being. He observes the officiating that occurs at the games. Games against Northampton are unfair. Mr. Schlameuss asked if Mr. Rohner is the Athletic Director, because that is their job. Mr. Dymond said we have had this discussion about football and basketball. The officiating is not fair. It's been a long-time problem. Mr. Schlameuss said he does not believe this will change even with a Board member or any community member on the sidelines. If you do not meet the description of the person on the signs that are posted, you should not be with the team on the sidelines whether you are previous player or not. Mr. Rohner said the district is in a position to treat policy as they wish. Mr. Schlameuss asked if the district knows if other Board members have had a penalty called on them. Mrs. VanWhy asked if there is an issue with any School Board Director on sidelines at other sporting events. Mr. Schlameuss said this should be applied universally. Mrs. VanWhy asked is this an issue with members of the public or School Board members on the sidelines or at any other sports? Mrs. Kulick said all School Directors should have all clearances. Mr. Rohner and Ms. Kulick said they have their clearances. Mrs. VanWhy said it is not required but they all should. Mr. Walsh said that the Board members have passion for the sports and they should leave the decision up to the coaches to make. Mrs. VanWhy asked what type of policy do we have? Mr. Gullstrand said in the Athletic policy it says no spectators are allowed on the field. It is also in the Athletic Handbook. This should be applied at all sports. Mr. Gullstrand said for safety concerns, spectators should not be permitted on the sideline during the game. You can find this information in Section 123 of the Athletics policy. Mr. Brown said he is not familiar with this policy but it says spectators. The reason why we are here is that the administration should enforce the policy that the Board passes but wants direction on how to enforce it on Board members.

Mr. Rohner asked Mr. Brown what does the word “shall” mean? Mr. Brown said it means you must do it. Mr. Rohner asked then it is mandatory, correct? Mr. Brown said, “Yes”. Mr. Rohner said, for the record, the school code requires that all School Directors should receive a bound copy of the School Law as soon as possible, since it is mandatory. Mr. Schlameuss said he has a digital copy. Mr. Karkut said he references it online. Mr. Karkut said he understand the point that Mr. Rohner is trying to make but we are here regarding the inconsistency of the policy. We are here to solve an issue with the current situation. He said he is concerned that when Mr. Rohner is on the field, he has caused a penalty which means he got louder than he should of. Standing on the sidelines causing a penalty is out of the ordinary and should not have happened. Mr. Rohner said Mr. Karkut should see the film in order to understand what happened. Mr. Schlameuss said he was there. Mr. Karkut said it was played on TV. Mr. Rohner said he has no regret. Mr. Dymond said that Mr. Andrews wrote a synopsis of what occurred and he would like to make a comment. He and Mr. Andrews were at the North game and Mr. Rohner was at the South game. They met about 15-20 minutes after the game. There were all kinds of comments and accusations as to Mr. Rohner's behavior and it was said that he was intoxicated. When they met, Mr. Rohner was not under the influence of any alcohol. He said Mr. Andrews and he were upset because they are trying to slander Mr. Rohner. This happens in politics in order to discredit people. Security was at the South game; therefore, if they thought he was intoxicated, they should have asked him to take a breathalyzer test. This was not done in this case.

Mr. Brown said this wording is not going into any policy. The Board is just setting its own internal operating rule. Mr. Karkut said we already have a procedure in place. Mr. Schlameuss said we should enforce it for everyone. Mr. Brown said we only advertise board member attendance. If the Board wants others, then we can do that at another meeting. You already have a policy in place for everyone but with Board members there is a gray area. Therefore, the administrators want to know the Board members' direction on how to handle the Board members on the sidelines. Mrs. VanWhy said I consider myself a public member; therefore, the policy is geared towards me. Mr. Karkut said the Board creates policy. We have no official power to go above and beyond the normal realm of the public. I understand why we are here. The end result is we are not allowed on the field. Mrs. VanWhy said she agrees because we are the public at the games. Mr. Dymond said his concern is that the schools are falling apart. Many in the past did not visit schools nor attend events. We, as Board members, need to be proactive and not just attend meetings. I do not have an issue with sports but where will it end. Ms. VanWhy said as a Board Member, we are not special and expect to go into classrooms or anywhere else unannounced. She said she makes appointments. That does not mean she keeps blinders on. Mr. Karkut said Board members attend functions as the public. He would love to take pictures on the field of his daughter but he cannot be on the field. As a Board member, he respects that he cannot. Special events are different. It is only during a game where an actual penalty can take place. Mr. Rohner asked if he is allowed to participate during senior night before the game. Mrs. VanWhy said the issue is during the game. Mr. Brown said as a Board member, you will not be allowed in the team box which is the space between the 30 yard lines while the game is going on and any portion of the field. Mr. Gullstrand asked if this is just for football and not all athletic events. Mr. Brown said in this instance it is just for football because that is how it was advertised. It can be amended in the future. Mr. Rohner said he reached out to former football coaches to come to the game in order to honor Coach Christian. Mrs. Rogers said a half-time ceremony is being planned.

Mr. Rohner said he would like to add an item to the agenda. Mr. Rohner said some coaches would like to have a blackout, which is buying some black shirts with purple and white trim, at no cost to the district. Motion was made by Larry Dymond and seconded by Debbie Kulick.

Mr. Brown said that we cannot add the above motion to tonight's agenda since it was not advertised. It would be a violation of the Sunshine Law. However, it can be added to Monday's Regular School Board Meeting Agenda.

Motion was withdrawn.

ACTION BY THE BOARD:

Motion was made by Richard Schlameuss to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Debbie Kulick and carried unanimously, 8-0.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT: 7:50 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia L. Rosado
Board Secretary