

**EAST STROUDSBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING
AUGUST 19, 2019
Carl T. Secor Administration Center
4:30 P.M.
MINUTES**

- I. Meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Robert Huffman.
- II. **Policy Committee Members Present were:** George Andrews, Robert Huffman, and Richard Schlameuss. Wayne Rohner was absent.
- III. **School Personnel Present were:** Brian Baddick, Eric Forsyth, Thomas McIntyre, Ryan Moran, Dr. William Riker, Paul Schmid, and Debra Wisotsky.
- IV. **Non-Committee Board Members Present were:** None
- V. **Members of the Public Present were:** Kimberly DeBlasio
- VI. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

ACTION BY THE COMMITTEE: Motion was made by Richard Schlameuss to approve this agenda for, August 19, 2019 (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 George Andrews and carried unanimously, 3-0.

VII. POLICIES FOR DISCUSSION:

- a. Policy 004 Membership – Policy 004 has been updated to reflect that in addition to the previous school director training requirements of Act 55 of 2017, the new amendments of Section 328 of PA School Code now require training on trauma-informed approaches. This is the first election cycle since Act 55 and Act 18 of 2019 implementing school directors training requirements.

Administration shared that the latest PSBA Newsletter is included in the Policy Review Committee’s agenda booklets for their reference. Mr. Andrews added that this information was extremely helpful to him in understanding many of the updates and the reasons for their implementation. Future newsletters will be shared with the committee as they become available.
- b. Policy 209 Health Examinations – Revisions include new provisions of Act 18 of 2019 revising 24 P.S. Sec. 14-1409 of the PA Public School Code as outlined in the PSBA newsletter. This policy has also been reviewed by Dr. John Bart, School Physician.
- c. Policy 335 Family & Medical Leaves (Repeal 435 & 535) – The three policies have been consolidated into Policy 335 with minor revisions.
- d. Policy 349 Health Insurance for Retirees – T. McIntyre noted that when this policy was consolidated from the separate employee policies into one, a section of the policy was inadvertently omitted. Mr. Andrews noted one error referring to Northeast Blue Cross rather than Highmark Blue Cross/Blue Shield.
- e. Policy 808 Food Services – P. Schmid shared that Act 16 of 2019 revises School Code 24 P.S. Sec. 13-1337. Act 16 will once again allow school districts to offer students not eligible for free or reduced lunch an alternative meal when their account carries a negative balance of \$50 or more in a

school year. The alternative meal will be provided until the balance has been paid off or a payment plan has been established to reduce the unpaid balance. In addition, it shall not constitute public identification or stigmatization of a student for the school entity to provide alternative meals to students under this provision. In prior years, our negative balance totaled approximately \$3,000-\$5,000. In March 2018 the policy was revised following the State mandate requiring that schools provide a full school meal to all students regardless of whether they carried a negative balance. This created a loophole whereby parents began to abuse the system because they could. This mandate became very costly for many districts throughout Pennsylvania. The total ESASD student negative school meal balance at the end of the 2018 school year was approximately \$13,800 and by July 2019 the negative balance had risen to \$62,085. The revised provision should again help school districts stop the bleed on unpaid meal accounts. Mr. Andrews inquired whether the provision is retroactive. Mr. Schmid stated the new provision will apply to the current school year only. The district will provide communication to parent/guardians as follows:

- \$10 or more: Connect Ed (Sunday nights)
 - Also, \$10 or more an envelope will be sent home through the office with the child's homework and information packages (weekly) indicating the amount the child owes
 - \$25 or more: Letter from Food Services (monthly)
 - \$50 or more: Letter from Business Office that the child will be given an "alternative meal" until 1) A payment plan is set up by the parent/guardian or 2) The balance is paid
 - \$100 or more: Letter from the Business Office that the district may take the parent/guardian to the magistrate.
- f. Policy 913 Non School Organizations/Groups/Individuals – Dr. Riker shared that the policy includes recommendations from a from a previous PSBA newsletter following.
- g. Policy 918 Title I Parent and Family Engagement/Attachment – Dr. Riker stated that this federal program/statute based on Every Student Succeeds Act will require Board approval each year. Updates include recommendations from the PSBA newsletter.

Public Participation: None

XI. ADVISORY RECOMMENDATIONS

ACTION BY THE COMMITTEE: Motion was made by Richard Schlameuss to authorize and direct the administration to post the following item(s) with noted revisions for PUBLIC REVIEW during the month of August and subsequent Board action in September: Policy 004 Membership, Policy 209 Health Examinations, Policy 335 Family & Medical Leaves (Repeal 435 & 535), Policy 349 Health Insurance for Retirees (with one minor correction noted), Policy 808 Food Services, Policy 913 Non School Organizations/Groups/Individuals, and Policy 918 Title I Parent and Family Engagement/Attachment. Motion was seconded by George Andrews and carried unanimously 3-0.

XII. ADJOURNMENT: 4:45 p.m.

ACTION BY THE COMMITTEE: Motion to adjourn was made by Richard Schlameuss. Motion was seconded by George Andrews and carried unanimously, 3-0.

Next meeting: September 16, 2019 – East Stroudsburg High School North Auditorium

Respectively submitted by,
Debra Wisotsky