

**EAST STROUDSBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
EDUCATION PROGRAMS & RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING
January 8, 2020
Carl T. Secor Administration Building – Board Conference Room
7:00 P.M.**

Minutes

I. **The Chairman**, Damary Bonilla, called the Education Programs & Resources Committee meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. Secretary, Patricia Rosado called the roll.

II. **Board Committee members Present:** George Andrews, Rebecca Bear, Damary Bonilla and Debbie Kulick.

Board Non-Committee members Present: Richard Schlameuss and Lisa VanWhy,

III. **School Personnel Present:** Brian D. Baddick, Tabitha Bradley, Fred P. Mill, Ryan Moran, Heather A. Piperato, William Riker and Patricia Rosado.

Community Members Present: Marilyn M. Brown, Kelly Weaber, Jayden Weaber Heagle

IV. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

RECOMMENDATION BY THE COMMITTEE:

Motion was made by Rebecca Bear to approve the agenda for January 8, 2020 and with members of the Committee reserving the right to add to the agenda and take further action in the best interest of the District. Motion was seconded by Debbie Kulick and carried unanimously, 4-0.

V. **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

- a. Review Policy, PA Code, Regulations, and Legislation that govern educational programs, and resources

Mr. Moran distributed Policy #105 Curriculum, #108 Adoption of Textbooks and #109 Resource Materials. He thanked the School Board for agreeing to have this committee. In the past, he has had opportunity to present information to the Board regarding classes, progress and the direction of where the district is going. He would like to provide background information on where we are going in order to meet the needs of all students.

Dr. Bonilla said that the Comprehensive Planning meetings are a great start to give us an opportunity to hear feedback from different members of the school district and community.

Mr. Moran said he would like to inform the Committee members tonight how the district gets information, PA Codes that we must follow and talk about future topics.

Policy #105 speaks about how resources relate to curriculum. The State sets the standards, which the district aligns to the academics. The district curriculum shall provide the following:

1. Continuous learning through effective collaboration among the schools of this district.
2. Continuous access to sufficient programs and services of a library/media facility and instructional resources to support the educational program/equal funds.
3. Guidance and counseling services for all students to assist in career and academic planning, i.e. career awareness, smart futures, etc.
4. A continuum of educational programs and services for all students with disabilities, pursuant to law and regulations. Dr. Bonilla asked if this work is done in conjunction with the IU 20. Mr. Moran said some is. It is also done in conjunction with Mr. Baddick.

Ms. Bear asked how we know if both intermediate schools are academically aligned. Mr. Moran said the district has the same resources and practices in place for both intermediate schools. Dr. Bonilla asked if the students have the same courses to choose from in both schools. Ms. Bear said the students need to be taking the same courses in both schools to make it equal. Mr. Moran said it is based on student interest. There are different courses of study in North and South. The district is focusing on the six elementary schools to ensure they are the same all across the board. At J. T. Lambert Intermediate and Lehman Intermediate, they are consistent in the foreign language. Mr. Moran said he and his staff are committed in focusing on the equity across the district. Ms. Bear asked if the cyber classes have enough interest. Ms. Piperato said there is a number of solutions that they run every other year. Ms. Bear said is Skype available. Ms. Piperato said Skyping may bring some challenges to some classes. Mr. Moran said electives are hands on courses. There is a vision for the future of these students. Dr. Bonilla said the district should make sure that all students have opportunities with the swap analysis model. Mr. Moran said that the EMR course will be housed at South with an opportunity for North students to participate. They are currently working on the challenges. Dr. Bonilla said that changes need to be made in order to offer equitable courses all across.

5. Language Instruction Educational Program (LIEP) for English Learner (EL) students whose dominant language is not English, pursuant to law and regulation and Board Policy.
6. Compensatory education programs for students, pursuant to law and regulation.

Dr. Bonilla asked how many students we have in this program. Mr. Moran said about 100 students receive services and others are monitored. Every school has an EL teacher. Ms. Bear asked how many different languages the students of the district speak. Mr. Moran said there are about 50 different languages. There is also an Adult EL program.

7. Equal educational opportunity for all students, pursuant to law and regulation.
8. Career awareness and vocational education, pursuant to law and regulation.
9. Educational opportunities for identified gifted students, pursuant to law and regulation, which will be worked together with Special Education.
10. Regular and continuous instruction in required safety procedures.

Policy 108 was also discussed particularly with Textbooks shall be defined as the books, in print or digital format, used as the basic source of information in the planned instruction.

Policy 109 was discussed. The Board shall provide instructional and evaluate materials to implement the school district and school educational goals and academic standards (some from the Board and others not).

Mr. Moran said that he would like to share information regarding the PA State Board of Education. They set the programs and resource equipment. Since the School Board is responsible to adopt the programs, it's important that they understand the process. He said there are 20 people on the State of Education (Senate/House/Education Committee), 16 are appointed by Governor Wolf, and confirmed by the Senate, to serve on the State Board. The remaining 4 are elected officials, they are the Majority and Minority leaders of the House and Senate Education Committees. The Chairperson of State Board of Education, Karen Farmer White (appointed by Governor, confirmed by Senate). Chief Executive Officer of the State Board of Education – has no vote (Pedro Rivera, appointed by Governor as Secretary of Department of Education, confirmed by Senate).

Statutes of PA (similar to Policy at the District level – this gives the PA Code its authority). The PA Code (similar to Administrative Regulations at the district level) is a publication of the Commonwealth of PA, listing all rules, regulations and other administrative documents from the Government of PA.

Dr. Bonilla asked if teachers share supplemental materials. Mr. Moran said they share information in different ways such as through Moddle page, leader posts, google docs, etc. Mr. Andrews asked if they share information at the school building level. Mr. Moran said information is shared school wide and/or within the district. Mr. Moran said information on the resources that are shared can be given to the Committee monthly. Mrs. Piperato said there are digital resources that can be shared where individual can sign and obtain information. Apps are also available for use.

Ms. Bear asked what is being done about the students that have to meet mandates in 2022. Mr. Moran said they begin with 7th graders but they will not need to pass certain requirements this year or need them in order to graduate. Mr. Schlameuss said that knowing in advance will give an opportunity for the Board members to advocate. Mr. Moran said there must be an understanding of what is requirements and not the law.

PA Code Title 22. Education – Chapter 4

Mr. Moran also shared with the Committee the PA Code Title 22. Education Chapter 4- Academic Standards and assessments. Page one explains the programs for Elementary education: primary and intermediate levels, which are grades k-3, 4 & 5 and sometimes 6. The information included curriculum and instruction, which include developmental skills, local assessment, Statewide assessment, academic standards, etc. Intermediate level may include separate courses and support systems. Ms. Bear asked if students need to take courses for career readiness. Mr. Moran said they may need to take some for the Keystone exams.

Mr. Moran went over the handout PA Code Title 22 Education Chapter 51 Student Attendance. The handout included information regarding the length of an instructional school day and school year. K-12 students shall be in session a minimum of 180 days,

including Act 80 days. Kindergarten; 2/1/2 hours, Grades 1–8; 5 hours, Grades 9–12; 5 ½ hours.

Mr. Moran also went over the Title 22. Education, Chapter 53 – Nursery Schools and Kindergartens Program of Instruction, Chapter 55 – Program of Instruction – Grades 1-8 and Chapter 57 – Secondary Schools Graduation Requirements – Grades 9-12

Chapter 53 - Nursery Schools and Kindergartens Program of Instruction should include those motor, creative, manipulative, imaginative, rhythmic, etc. Learning experience, both informal and planned, shall include: free play, gross motor skill development, fine motor skill development, perceptual activities, etc. Ms. Kulick asked if private schools follow the same program of instruction. Mr. Moran said a Certified Private Center has their own standards.

Chapter 55 – Program of Instruction – Elementary Schools Grades 1-8 should teach the following subjects in the English language every year: English, Reading, Spelling, Writing, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Health, Physical Education, Art and Music. The following subjects should be taught at least once: History of the U.S., History of PA, Geography, Civics and Safety Education.

Chapter 57 - Secondary Schools Graduation Requirements – Grades 9-12 every student graduating shall have completed 120 hours of instruction in the following 21 units of credit: English 4, Mathematics 3, Science 3, Social Studies 3, Arts or Humanities or Both 2 and Health and Physical Education 1. Mr. Moran said that our district provides more credit in Mathematics and Social Studies 4. Students also select 5 additional courses from among those approved for credit toward graduation such as Foreign Language, Vocational Education, Business Education, Industrial Arts, Home Economics, Computer Science, Consumer Education, Art, and Music. Ms. Bear asked if students are able to change a math class by taking a finance class instead. Mr. Moran said they can take a finance class but it may not be considered as a math class.

A Comprehensive Planning Strategic Objectives chart was provided which included Physical Safety, Emotional Support, Leadership Team, Relevant Pathways, Learning Experiences and Academic Solutions for students.

Dr. Marilyn M. Brown asked if parents are able to opt their child out of taking the PSSA and Keystone tests. Dr. Brown asked if the ethnicity of the children is known for those who opt out. Mr. Moran said parents may opt out their child but does not have the information of their ethnicity. Dr. Bonilla said that more discussion should be had at the Comprehensive Planning meetings. Dr. Brown asked if the district has a Xerox machine that will translate materials in different languages. Mr. Moran said the district uses the google translator but it is not totally accurate. Dr. Bonilla suggested writing a grant for assistance in this area. Mr. Moran said that Title III grant funds can be possibly utilized for this instrument. The district's goals are to separate elementary, intermediate and high school levels to prepare for all requirements and see what needs to be changed.

Ms. Bear asked how we can determine that the students are learning at the same level. Not all teachers teach in the same manners. Ms. Kulick said transient students may not be at the same level as those who have been learning in the district. Mr. Andrews said some students may need assistance and others may be bored. Dr. Bonilla said this needs to be looked into further. Ms. Kulick said perhaps Mr. Baddick's department can join the

committee to discuss this further. Mr. Moran said students may be at different levels because they all learn at different rates. He said they can provide information about the different levels. This is a concern and needs to be addressed. There is a lot of work to be done.

Ms. Bear said the way that teachers are teaching affects the students' scores and grades. Is this being looked at? Mr. Andrews said this may be hard to determine. Dr. Riker asked why is this important. He does not know of any student that has been denied a job based on their Keystone Exam scores. Dr. Riker said if this is how the Board would like administration to focus on, they need direction. Mr. Andrews said the scores may be indicative of how a teacher teaches. Dr. Riker said he disagrees. Ms. Bear said the scores may not be important but students get penalized by being placed in a remedial class instead of being able to take another class that they would like to take. Dr. Riker said this is why the Board has to give direction to administration on how they would like to proceed. Ms. Bear asked if the teacher has authority to not place a child in Math Edge. Dr. Riker said it will depend on the Board's direction. Dr. Bonilla said a determination will need to be made in the near future. Mr. Moran this is important to talk about especially when discussing programs. The Board would like in place after-school programs for those not performing well on PSSA. If so, then administration can set up remediation but we cannot require them to come. This needs to be discussed if we are going to put that much weight on State exams.

Ms. Kulick said we need parent involvement. Dr. Bonilla said we need parent/guardian involvement. Mr. Moran said family engagement sounds appropriate.

b. Share Future Meeting Topics

i. Elicit feedback/input regarding topics

1. What to do with requirements for Elementary, Intermediate and High School levels.
2. Cyber/Satellite Course Offerings at each high school.
3. Access/Implementation
4. ELs and languages spoken across the district
5. Monthly Supplemental Materials
6. District-wide Sharing of Materials
7. Clever Apps
8. Family Consumer Science
9. Graduation Requirements
10. Monroe Pathways
11. PSSAs and who opts out based on ethnicity?
12. Xerox Machine for translations with possible grant funds
13. Monitoring that students are taught the same way. How do we assess that?
Invite Mr. Brian Baddick, Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Services, to discuss.
14. Grading
15. Keystone/PSSA teacher pass rates
16. Math Edge Options – Board decision
17. After school classes and remediation programs – Board decision
18. Family Engagement
19. Resources for Family
20. Invite students from the community to future events.

- c. Set Future Meeting Dates – The Committee members agreed to meet at 7:00 p.m. following the Property/Facilities Committee meetings as follows:

February	05,	2020	-- 7:00 PM – Carl T. Secor Administration Center – Board Room
March	04,	2020	-- 7:00 PM – Carl T. Secor Administration Center – Board Room
April	01,	2020	-- 7:00 PM – Carl T. Secor Administration Center – Board Room
May	06,	2020	-- 7:00 PM – Carl T. Secor Administration Center – Board Room
June	03,	2020	-- 7:00 PM – Carl T. Secor Administration Center – Board Room
July	01,	2020	-- 7:00 PM – Carl T. Secor Administration Center – Board Room
August	05,	2020	-- 7:00 PM – Carl T. Secor Administration Center – Board Room
September	02,	2020	-- 7:00 PM – Carl T. Secor Administration Center – Board Room
October	07,	2020	-- 7:00 PM – Carl T. Secor Administration Center – Board Room
November	04,	2020	-- 7:00 PM – Carl T. Secor Administration Center – Board Room

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - LIMITED TO ITEMS OF DISCUSSION

- A. Dr. Brown suggested that students be taught diversified curriculum to include correct literature.
- B. Mr. Jayden Weaber Heagle, H.S. South student, asked if a Policy is mandated by the State or the school. Mr. Moran said the school district is following state requirements. Jayden said that North and South are not consistent with curriculum being taught with reference to the courses that are being offered. Dr. Bonilla said students can be invited to informal talks to discuss this issue. Mrs. Piperato suggested inviting families, community and members of the staff, too. Ms. Kulick suggested teacher groups. Mr. Moran said aside from meeting, there are other ways to communicate with families and students in order to get input. Mr. Andrews said that there are different groups that are part of the Comprehensive Planning Committee. Dr. Bonilla said this group is different because they are broken down into groups. Ms. Bear said how can the Committee reach out to the families because they can make a difference. Ms. Piperato said that they can look into solving this issue after the Committee has received all the information that Administration has to share with them. Dr. Bonilla said yes and no because they need to reach out to the families. Dr. Riker said they can reach out to different levels and get documents out. Dr. Bonilla said we need to keep it simple. Dr. Riker said having families come out to meetings may be difficult. They can provide three or four topics electronically for the families to weigh in on. Mr. Andrews asked if we have capability by phone to do this. Dr. Riker said the district has Connect Ed, email and the website as means to communicate to families. Mr. Andrews asked if we can send text messages. Dr. Riker said we cannot. Dr. Bonilla suggested having the families come to an informal meeting to engage and become exposed to the information.
- C. Dr. Brown asked if the meetings can be streamed and if other venues can be used. Dr. Bonilla said this Committee may consider that for the future. Ms. Bear said the technology that the district has available may help.
- D. Ms. Kulick suggested inviting community groups to the Committee meeting, such as the Chamber of Commerce, Visitors Bureau, etc.

VII. ADVISORY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

None

VIII. NEXT MEETING – February 5, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

RECOMMENDATION BY THE COMMITTEE:

Motion was made by Rebecca Bear to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Debbie Kulick and carried unanimously, 4-0.

IX. ADJOURNMENT – 9:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia L. Rosado
Board Secretary