

**EAST STROUDSBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING
SEPTEMBER 18, 2023
CARL T. SECOR ADMINISTRATION CENTER & VIA ZOOM—4:30 P.M.
MINUTES**

- I. Meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Lisa VanWhy.
- II. **Policy Committee Members Present were:** George Andrews, Debbie Kulick (absent), Jason Gullstrand, and Lisa VanWhy.
- III. **School Personnel Present were:** Brian Baddick, Eric Forsyth, William Vitulli, Debra Wisotsky, Steve Zall.
- IV. **Members of the Board Present were:** Wayne Rohner
- V. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMITTEE: Motion was made by George Andrews to approve this agenda for September 18, 2023 (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 Jason Gullstrand and carried unanimously, 3-0.

VI. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMITTEE: Motion was made by George Andrews to approve the minutes for August 21, 2023 (pages 1-4). Motion was seconded by Jason Gullstrand and carried unanimously 3-0.

VII. **POLICIES FOR DISCUSSION:**

- a. Policy 123.1 Concussion Management—Mrs. VanWhy read the revisions to the policy. Mr. Gullstrand inquired about the one sub-section that was revised from collision and contact sports to interscholastic sports. He asked, are we now stating all interscholastic sports that are offered at East Stroudsburg Area School District? Is that whether it is contact or not? Dr. Riker replied, yes, you are correct.
- b. Policy 206 Assignment within District—Mrs. VanWhy shared the revisions on page 2 of 5 of the policy. Mr. Andrews inquired as to why this would be an issue? If we have two kids living in the same household, they should be attending the same school. Dr. Riker replied this situation typically applies to a student with an IEP who is placed in a program at a building other than their zoned school. They may have a sibling that wouldn't have an IEP and would be expected to attend their zoned school, placing them in two separate buildings. This would allow them to attend the same school with their sibling.

Mrs. VanWhy asked about the AR and forms in the back. Are they included all the time? Ms. Wisotsky explained that this is the Administrative Regulation and forms that go along with the revised concussion management policy.

Public Participation: Wayne Rohner inquired about Policy 206, saying, so with this amendment, families that are in Porter Township that may be attending Resica Elementary are eligible to attend Bushkill Elementary moving forward. Is that what I'm hearing? Dr. Riker replied, no. Mr. Rohner asked what determines school building locations with respect to our population. Dr. Riker stated the Board has specific zoned areas that determine where students go to school or what building they attend. The Board draws the lines in the district. Mr. Andrews asked doesn't administration draw the lines and we approve. Dr. Riker said yes; however, we have not done that since I have been here. Administration makes recommendations but ultimately the Board is going to approve the lines. Mr. Andrews added, I don't recall approving any lines since I've been on the Board. Dr. Riker replied, you haven't, nor have I since I've been here. Mr. Rohner added he would like to make a

recommendation that we do that, because at the end of the day, this particular family chose to go to a charter school, saying, so I find it unusual that we wouldn't accommodate the family's request and now will take a double whammy by them attending a charter school.

Dr. Riker stated, I find it appalling that a member of this Board would ask me to ignore your policies that you are elected to uphold. Mr. Rohner replied, no Board member gave you the directive to ignore policy. Dr. Riker said, you did. Mr. Rohner said the direction I gave was for the family to schedule an appointment and put in a written request, that was my direction. Dr. Riker added, I think your comment just indicated that as well. Mrs. VanWhy said I guess there is a little more to this than that. So Wayne, if you want to discuss that with the rest of the Board, and we have a majority that will entertain that, then we can. Mr. Rohner said, we keep talking about charter school expenses. Mr. Andrews replied, I didn't know we have the Board draw the borderlines. Mrs. VanWhy added I think a lot of it depends on the demographics, busing and various other criteria. Mr. Andrews added, but not since you or I have been on the Board. Dr. Riker said what I would caution you in doing, ever, is allowing people to simply select where they want their children to go to school, which is why the Board creates boundaries or zones to balance the population within the schools. We are experiencing growth in some of our schools and we have actually engaged in some preliminary conversations at the administrative level that we may be bringing to you in the future. It is fair to say that there is only so much room in a building and either you are going to have to increase class sizes in some of these buildings in order to accommodate, or change the geographic lines of where the attendance boundaries are for some schools. That's a long away conversation, but it is definitely one that we have already started to look at and would be bringing to the Board at some point. Mrs. VanWhy added I guess you will all know based on enrollment.

VIII. ADVISORY RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMITTEE: Motion was made by George Andrews to authorize and direct the administration to post the following item(s) with noted revisions for PUBLIC REVIEW during the month of September and subsequent Board action in October: Policies 123.1 and 206. Motion was seconded by Jason Gullstrand and carried unanimously 3-0.

IX. ADJOURNMENT: 4:41 p.m.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMITTEE: Motion to adjourn was made by George Andrews. Motion was seconded by Jason Gullstrand and carried unanimously, 3-0.

Next meeting: October 16, 2023 at 4:30p.m. in the Carl T. Secor Administration Center.

Respectively submitted by,
Debra Wisotsky