

**EAST STROUDSBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING**

May 15, 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 Cooke, Robert Huffman, Wayne Rohner, and Judy Summers.
- III. **School Personnel Present were:** Jeffrey Bader, Joann Bohrman, Michael Catrillo, Dawn Dailey, Ryan DeLong, Robert Dilliplane, Eric Forsyth, Josh Fuller, Kristin Lord, Ryan Moran, Walter Pawlowski, Dr. William Riker, Renee Stevens, and Debra Wisotsky.
- IV. **Members of the Public Present were:** Angeli Roney, Sierrah Roney, and Virginia Farrow William
- V. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

ACTION BY THE COMMITTEE: Motion was made by Robert Cooke to approve the minutes for April 24, 2017 (pages 1-3). Motion was seconded by Robert Huffman and carried unanimously, 4-0.

VI. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

ACTION BY THE COMMITTEE: Motion was made by Robert Cooke to approve this agenda for May 15, 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 Wayne Rohner and carried unanimously, 4-0.

VII. **POLICIES FOR DISCUSSION:**

- a. **Policy 203 Communicable Diseases and Immunizations**—Mr. Forsyth shared that recent law changes for the 2017-2018 school year prompted the revisions listed in this policy. Administration will post this policy for public review in June with an effective date of July 1. The district has already started the process of notifying parents of the new requirements for the upcoming school year. Mrs. Summers inquired as to why the specific immunizations are not listed in the policy. Mr. Forsyth stated that the policy references immunizations in accordance with Pennsylvania statutes. This prevents the policy from having to be revised each time a change occurs in the specific immunization requirements.
- b. **Policy 810.1 Drug & Alcohol Testing – Covered Drivers**—Mr. Forsyth stated that revisions are based on recommendations by general counsel and our labor attorney with regard to drug and alcohol testing of employees. New language allows the district the ability to test under specific conditions in addition to testing as required by law. This policy will be posted for public review and subsequent Board action in June.

- c. **Policy 351 Drug & Substance Abuse**—Language in this policy was revised to mirror the revisions noted in Policy 810.1. This policy will be posted for public review and subsequent Board action in June.
- d. **Policy 451 & 551 (REPEAL BOTH and combine with Policy 351)**—Both policies will be repealed to consolidate into one policy section covering all employees in the district. This policy will be posted for public review and subsequent Board action in June.
- e. **Policy 929 Fundraising**—Mr. Forsyth indicated that Policy 929 was pulled from Board action this evening so that our CFO and solicitor could further discuss a few more language revisions. This policy will reappear on next month’s Policy Review Committee Agenda.
- f. **Policy 221 Dress & Grooming** –Mr. Forsyth informed the committee that Policy 221 is being shared in its current state for discussion by the committee for possible revision. He noted that this was prompted by building principals requesting that the policy be reviewed for a more standardized/simplified dress code than currently in place. Building principals provided input as described in public participation below. Mr. Forsyth added that we need work quickly on this so that parents can be informed of updates prior to shopping for clothing for the upcoming school year. Administration will work with principals to draft an updated policy which will be presented to the committee at the next meeting.

VIII. POLICIES ON THE TABLE FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

- a. Policy 113.2 Behavior Support
- b. Policy 204 Attendance
- c. Policy 702.1 Donations Containing Advertisement – New Policy
- d. Policy 918 Title I Parental Involvement
- e. Booster Clubs

Public Participation:

Dr. Dilliplane suggested a more standardized policy something that is narrowed down more, i.e., khakis or one type of pant, a golf shirt perhaps only three or four colors. Something that would be simple to enforce. Parents, teachers, administrators and students have expressed frustration about its complicated nature, as well as a desire for a simplified dress code. Dr. Dilliplane gave an example that under the current policy, students do not necessarily look better when complying with the ESASD dress code. For example, a student with a v-neck sweater and new khakis is out of compliance for the top without a collar, while another student can wear a sponge-bob t-shirt with an unbuttoned flannel collared shirt and school district sweatpants and be in compliance. Clearly, the first student is dressed more respectably, so how does he justify this to a parent when he can’t justify it himself. Countless administrative hours are spent disciplining students, contacting parents to bring a change of clothing, and not to mention students missing important academic instructional time. Lack of parental support/acceptance is increasingly difficult and the enforcement of such an unwieldy and illogical policy only serves to strain school-community relations when our goal is to strengthen them.

Mrs. Summers stated that she spoke with a few Stroudsburg parents who are happy with their uniform policy. They said that it seemed to be working well there. It required some adjustment at first, but most people have come round.

Mr. Fuller brought an entire year’s worth of dress code violation, stating that of the approximate 1,500 this year alone, they amounted to at the very least 10-15 minutes of missed class time to call parents for a change of clothing.

Mrs. Bohrman shared that the current policy has had no affect on school safety nor respect. She also mentioned that unlike some dress codes forbidding name-brand or designer labels that eliminate a sense of competition and superiority/inferiority among students, no such restrictions exist in this dress code.

Mrs. Lord informed the committee, that as a parent of a Stroudsburg student, the cost factor in a more standardized policy is a lot more affordable for families. Polos can be purchased for as little as \$5.

Mr. DeLong added that of the 1100 violations this year for students not wearing their ID on a lanyard of clipped to their torso, only 6 students actually didn't have their ID's on them when asked to produce them. Students must have an ID to access the scanners in the cafeteria to purchase their lunch, so by not mandating the students to wear their ID's on a lanyard, that would save countless hours each day writing up students for non-compliance.

Mr. Catrillo also stated that wearing an ID has had no affect on building safety and the expense of purchasing lanyards for students each year can be expensive.

Mrs. Dailey shared that one of the most frustrating parts is that a student wearing sweatpants is disciplined for being out of dress code, but another student who can afford the expensive "Penn State" sweatpants is okay, this is the same regarding t-shirts and sweatshirts. Some families simply cannot afford college gear or military clothing because of cost but yet nothing is different between the clothing other than the "logo".

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 May and subsequent Board action in June: Policy 203 Communicable Diseases and Immunizations, Policy 351 Drug & Substance Abuse (Employees), REPEAL of Policies 451 & 551 Drug & Substance Abuse and combine with Policy 351, Policy 810.1 Drug & Alcohol Testing-Covered Drivers. Motion was seconded by Robert Cooke and carried unanimously 4-0.

IX. ADJOURNMENT: 5:31 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: June 26, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. (Changed from June 19, 2017 due to postponement of the May Board meeting.)

Respectively submitted by,
Debra Wisotsky