

**EAST STROUDSBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 19, 2022  
CARL T. SECOR ADMINISTRATION CENTER & VIA ZOOM—4:30 P.M.  
MINUTES**

- I. Meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Debbie Kulick.
- II. **Policy Committee Members Present were:** George Andrews, Wayne Rohner and Lisa VanWhy. Debbie Kulick was absent.
- III. **School Personnel Present were:** Brian Baddick, Eric Forsyth, Dr. William Riker, Frederick Mill, William Vitulli, Debra Wisotsky and Steve Zall.
- IV. **Members of the Public Present were: None**
- V. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMITTEE:** Motion was made by George Andrews to approve this agenda for September 19, 2022 (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, 3-0.

VI. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMITTEE:** Motion was made by George Andrews to approve the minutes for August 15, 2022 (pages 1-3). Motion was seconded by Wayne Rohner and carried unanimously 3-0.

VII. **POLICIES FOR DISCUSSION:**

**Policies presented by administration-**

- a. Policy 113.4 Chapter 15 (REPEAL) duplicative of language included in Policy 103.1— Dr. Riker stated that we shared this with our special ed counsel and they agreed with our direction. Mr. Rohner asked who is our special ed counsel. Dr. Riker replied, I believe it was either Sweet Stevens or King Spry. Mr. Baddick shared it was Mark Walz of Sweet, Stevens. Mr. Rohner stated, “I will always have a problem with King Spry and I just want it to be on record.” Mr. Andrews shared we canceled them at one time. Mr. Rohner said yes, and we saw how that was circumvented. Mr. Baddick noted, the Board also voted to bring them back. Mrs. VanWhy suggested they get back to the policy at hand. Is there any other discussion on the policy, hearing none, we can move on to Policy 206.
- b. Policy 206 Assignment within District—Mrs. VanWhy read the revisions on page two. Mr. Andrews and Mrs. VanWhy stated they were both in agreement with that. Mr. Rohner stated that he is not familiar with the HeadStart Program but it implies that it is pre-kindergarten program and that once the student is kindergarten eligible that they are required to be in their specific zone. Mr. Andrews added this is a program for the economically disadvantaged. Mr. Rohner said I see us hopefully someday changing that

format. Kind of like we have student going to Lehighton because of specialization. I see us doing that someday. The committee had no further concerns with the policy as written.

- c. Policy 236.1 Threat Assessment – Mrs. VanWhy read the revisions. Mr. Rohner inquired whether the School Safety & Security Committee is an annual committee. Chief Mill shared that the policy is referring to the PDE State School Safety & Security Committee. Mrs. VanWhy stated that the revisions are all based on PSBA sample policy language. There were no other concerns with the policy as written.
- d. Policy 805 Emergency Preparedness & Response—Mrs. VanWhy noted the additional references in the left-hand column and read the revisions which include the required trainings for emergency preparedness and whether trainings can be conducted virtually or in-person. Dr. Riker clarified, just to speak to these policy changes for the committee’s benefit, last year the state mandated threat assessment teams in every school district. The School Safety and Security Coordinator, which is Chief Mill, as appointed by the Board, is responsible for ensuring that we have our threat assessment teams in our buildings. So now one year further down the road, the State has added additional requirements specific to trainings as you see here in the policies. So the revisions are simply reflecting those changes as per PSBA and their adjustment and modification to the language as it applies to threat assessment teams and training around it. I will add though; I already have a book that is 71 pages on state-mandated trainings and that presents all kinds of challenges and logistical nightmares in order to get everyone trained as required by the law. Mr. Andrews noted one typo and the page numbering should be adjusted to page 6 of 6. There were no other concerns with the policy as written.
- e. Policy 805.2 School Security Personnel—Mrs. VanWhy read the revisions under the Delegation of Responsibility, where the Superintendent, rather than the Board designates the Chief of School Police to serve as the School Safety and Security Coordinator, in accordance with law. Mr. Andrews added I believe it should read upon Board approval. Mr. Rohner stated, I’ll be honest, I haven’t read School Code 1309. Dr. Riker said, I don’t have a problem with it. It probably reads that way because it is not a position created in the district. It is someone who already has a position and is given the responsibility of the School Safety and Security Coordinator. The timeline is probably the critical piece where they are saying should your coordinator leave the district; the district is required to reappoint someone within 30 days. Mr. Andrews added maybe a quick email notifying the Board. Mrs. VanWhy said it does say the Board shall be notified. Dr. Riker agreed, the language to inform the Board is already in there. Mr. Forsyth added the top section of the code that Mr. Rohner is referring to says the Chief School Administrator shall appoint. Mr. Rohner asked if that is a recent amendment to that? I ask because we made an amendment to this a year ago in 2021. Mr. Forsyth replied the most recent date is June 28, 2019 and a July 2022 amendment. The only addition in July is the requirement should a coordinator leave the position; the Superintendent must reappoint a replacement within thirty days. Mr. Rohner asked is this an amendment from PSBA. Mr. Forsyth said yes, it is. Mr. Rohner said, just so we understand moving forward, I am the type of school board director that prefers that documentation for transparency purposes moving forward. If there is a change in the law, I would like to read that. There were no other concerns with the policy as written.

**Public Participation:** None

## 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: 113.4 (REPEAL), 206, 236.1, 805, 805.2. Motion was seconded by Lisa VanWhy and carried unanimously 3-0.

IX. **ADJOURNMENT:** 4:50 p.m.

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

Next meeting: October 17, 2022 at 4:30 p.m. in the Carl T. Secor Administration Board Room & via Zoom.

Respectively submitted by,  
Debra Wisotsky