

**Board Policy Committee
Meeting
Thursday, January 10, 2019**



Committee Purpose

The Board Policy Committee provides the board with a venue to fully vet policies with various stakeholders from around the district. Policies have been placed on a three-year cycle for review.

Committee Leadership

*Mr. Chris Smiley, School Board Committee Chair
Dr. Tab Musser, Assistant Superintendent*

Start Time: 11:01 a.m.

Location: Technology Training Room, Landisville Education Center

The Following People Were in Attendance:

Board Members: Adam Aloisi, Mike Donato, Linda Johnston, Grant Keener, Bill Otto, Chris Smiley

Administration: Mike Bromirski, Bill Brossman, Brendan Cregan, Jim Dague, Doug Dandridge, Shaunte DePaso, Dan Forry, Mike Graham, Maria Hoover, Tab Musser, Steve Polonus, Mark Reinhardt, Randy E. Smith, Shannon Zimmerman

Other: Kathy Miller - Recording Secretary

Time for Public Comment: None

Discussion Items:

Dr. Tab Musser, Assistant Superintendent, welcomed the group and thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

Dr. Musser shared that he would like the committee to take the entire February Board policy meeting to discuss cell phones in the schools and come up with a workable solution that would be made effective for the 2019-2020 school year. He said there will be representatives at the February meeting from the elementary, middle school, and high school levels. A board member voiced concern about the application of Board policy (237), the representation of this policy in building/student handbooks, and the interpretation of these documents at the building level. This concern will be a priority at the February meeting.

Disposal Policy

Dr. Musser directed the committee members' attention to the wording in the policy regarding an item or a single lot of similar items with an estimated value of \$5,000 or more that would need board approval prior to disposal. He gave examples of some of the items that are being stored throughout the district that have little or no value. All committee members feel this draft policy is satisfactory. This policy will move to first reading on the January 15 board agenda.

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Board Communication Policy

Dr. Musser said legal counsel has advised school districts to have a policy about board communication, because it is a “Sunshine” issue. Dr. Musser asked the committee members if anyone feels we need a policy on this. There was discussion about Right to Know. Dr. Musser said we have an existing policy (Board Policy 004) for school directors and the policy addresses new school director education/training. The committee felt that we could add a section about school directors using only their school district-issued email accounts for all school district business as best practice. Dr. Musser will make this adjustment to the existing policy and bring the policy back to the committee at the March Board policy meeting.

201 Admission of Students

Ms. Shaunte DePaso, Coordinator of Student Services, presented this policy and explained that the policy states that children must be five years old by September 1 to enter kindergarten in our school district. Currently, there is a section in the policy on exceptions for children who turn five no later than October 1 and their parents/guardians submit a formal request for consideration of early admission. The school district must then perform assessments to determine if the child will be successful in school. Ms. DePaso made a recommendation to remove the exception section, because very few children are successful in the assessments. It was also stated that legal counsel suggests that school districts go with a solid date, because of opening the district up to discrimination claims. This policy will move to first reading in February.

331 Job-Related Expenses

Dr. Musser presented this policy and highlighted changes to the policy. Board members asked why employees are being reimbursed at 75% of the IRS rate and not 100%. Dr. Musser shared that it has been that way since he has been with the district and Mr. Forry said he thought it was a cost-cutting measure put into place years ago. Board members unanimously said that employees should be reimbursed at 100% of the IRS rate. Other changes/additions to the policy were: using the most economical route, lodging reimbursement for overnight travel, and single-day travel meal guidelines, which were discussed and approved as written. The changes to the policy will not take place until July 1, 2019. Dr. Musser said this policy will be approved but put on hold until a later date.

Social Media/824 Maintaining Adult/Student Boundaries Comparison

Ms. Shannon Zimmerman, Director of Communications, compared the Social Media Policy to Board Policy 824 Maintaining Adult/Student Boundaries Comparison and showed the marked up similarities and overlaps between the two policies. Ms. Zimmerman recommended that Board Policy 824 is enough and a Social Media Policy is unnecessary. Board members and committee members agreed with her. The Social Media Policy will not be moving on.

Safe2Say

Mr. Forry, Chief Operating Officer, said the Safe2Say procedures are 17 pages long. The State said the Safe2Say Program will open on January 14, 2019 and no waivers will be given. After January 14, they will share the capabilities with the Board. The school district may keep their current system up and running simultaneously. Mr. Graham said the Safe2Say Program does have some nice features that the current system does not have.

Dr. Musser told the committee members that their time was appreciated. He reminded them that the February board policy committee meeting will be exclusively on the cell phone topic and it may run long.

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Adjournment Time: 12:11 pm

Future meeting dates scheduled at 11:00 am in the Technology Training Room at Landisville Education Center (unless otherwise communicated):

February 14, 2019

March 14, 2019

April 11, 2019

May 9, 2019