Policy, Personnel & Legal Committee Meeting Minutes
November 12, 2020

Committee Purpose
The Policy, Personnel & Legal Committee provides the Board with a venue to fully vet policies, discuss personnel issues and address legal matters of concern.

Committee Leadership
(Board) Chris Smiley, Mike Donato, Linda Johnston, Grant Keener
(Administrators) Tab Musser, others as applicable/available

Per Board Policy, if you intend to record any portion of the meeting proceedings, you must notify the Communications Director or other Administrator prior to the start of the meeting. A public announcement will be made at the opening of the meeting to inform all attendees that all or part of the meeting is being recorded by an audience member.

Start Time: 11:00 am

Location: Hempfield High School Performing Arts Center and Virtual

Attendees:

Board Members: Adam Aloisi, Mike Donato, Linda Johnston, Grant Keener (virtual), Jim Maurer, Chris Smiley

Staff: Mike Bromirski, Brendan Cregan, Doug Dandridge, Shaunte DePaso, Denise Galen, Mike Graham, Karen Hall, Maria Hoover, Joanne Jones, Tom Kramer, Tab Musser, Jacquelyn Strybos (virtual)

Other: Kathy Miller, Recording Secretary

Time for Public Comment (5-minute limit per Board Policy 903):

None

Agenda Items:

1. First Reading Consideration
   a. 201 Admission of Students - Ms. Shaunte DePaso, Student Services Coordinator, presented Policy 201 with revised wording from last month’s meeting. There was discussion on two issues: 1) admitting kindergarten students who turn six during the course of the school year. 2) admitting five-year old kindergarten students the first two weeks of the school year, but not past the first
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school day in October. Dr. Musser said they will work on language pertaining to the second issue. Dr. Musser asked the board members if they are in agreement with allowing students who turn six during the course of the school year to begin kindergarten, since six is the compulsory age to enter school and they were in agreement. This policy will return to the committee with revised language.

b. 317 Educator Misconduct - Dr. Tab Musser explained that changes to Title IX impacted other policies. This is one of the affected policies. The only change to this policy was the addition of Title IX language. This policy will be on the agenda for approval of first reading at the December 8, 2020 school board meeting.

c. 824 Maintaining Professional Adult-Student Boundaries - Mr. Brendan Cregan presented Policy 824 with proposed changes that were recommended by PSBA’s update to their policy. Mr. Cregan went through each of the proposed changes. There was discussion on personal gifts to students, inviting students to an adult’s home, students disclosing personal or family situations, and social networking sites. Mr. Cregan also added Title IX language to this policy. This policy will return to the committee with revised language.

d. 113.1 Discipline of Students with Disabilities - Ms. Denise Galen presented Policy 113.1 with significant additions to the policy and explained the additions. These additions were the result of terminology changes, procedural items that were housed in other places and the result of compliance monitoring that took place in the special education department. All the additions to the policy are part of special education regulations and have been followed or practiced by the district and are now being inserted into the board policy. This policy will be on the agenda for approval of first reading at the December 8, 2020 school board meeting.

e. 113.2 Behavioral Support Plan - Ms. Galen presented Policy 113.2 with proposed minor terminology changes. Ms. Galen proposed adding parental consent to the use of restraints in an IEP only if the restraint is used with specific component elements of a Positive Behavior Plan. This policy will be on the agenda for approval of first reading at the December 8, 2020 school board meeting.

2. Discussion

a. 113.4 Confidentiality of Special Education Student Information - Miss Galen briefly talked about this policy, which is a separate policy regarding confidentiality with students with disabilities. Suggested changes to this policy were a result of compliance monitoring. Ms. Galen will work on this policy and bring proposed changes to the December committee meeting.

b. The Vaping and Crowdfunding discussions were moved to the December 10, 2020 committee meeting because a lack of time.
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There was an executive session immediately following the committee meeting to discuss a personnel issue.

Future Meeting Dates:
December 10, 2020
January 14, 2021
February 11, 2021
March 11, 2021
April 15, 2021
May 13, 2021

Board Review / Action Items: None

The meeting concluded at 12:05 pm.