



## Policy, Personnel & Legal Committee Meeting Minutes December 10, 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

### **Attendees:**

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

**Staff:** *Brendan Cregan, Doug Dandridge, Shaunté DePaso, Mike Graham, Jodi Harrington, Maria Hoover, Joanne Jones, Stacy Kain, Tom Kramer, Tab Musser, Jacquelyn Strybos*

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

None

### **Agenda Items:**

1. First Reading Consideration
  - a. 702.1: Crowdfunding – Dr. Doug Dandridge presented a draft of Policy 702.1, which addressed legal recommendations made by district council related to implementation of crowdfunding within the school district and was drafted from a PSBA template. As presented, there were two options to consider: 1) outright prohibiting crowdfunding in any form, or 2) allow crowdfunding to occur



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within the school district and use the policy to set up boundaries that address any concerns ahead of time. The decision was made to push forward with creating the policy, but to remove the dollar threshold for requiring board approval. Discussion centered on several issues and there was agreement that the final draft of the policy would address and ensure: a) equity and consistency across buildings, b) implementation of appropriate approval procedures, c) that all documentation necessary to meet both legal and financial auditing requirements would be maintained. There will be additional conversations at the leadership level, with a request for legal review once the final draft has been made. The policy will be on the agenda for first reading at the January 12, 2021 school board meeting.

- b. 824: Maintaining Professional Adult-Student Boundaries – Mr. Brendan Cregan presented Policy 824 with revised wording based on discussion at last month’s meeting. Mr. Cregan went through each of the proposed changes, both additions and deletions, explaining the reasons for the edits. A request was made to change “intimate” to “unprofessional” as noted in item #7 in the list of prohibited conduct, which was agreed to by the committee. Mr. Cregan will make minor adjustments and the policy will be on the agenda for first reading at the January 12, 2021 school board meeting.
  
- c. 201: Admission of Students – Mrs. Shaunté DePaso presented Policy 201 with revised wording from last month’s meeting. The policy edits were shared with committee members through board news, which served to: 1) clarify the definition of a beginner, 2) remove the two-week enrollment restriction from beginners, 3) close the legal gap created by the change in compulsory attendance age from eight to six years, 4) set a deadline (first school day of October) to address children moving into the district after the start of the school year who are eligible to enter kindergarten. There was discussion of the difference between students entering school for the first time, which is what this policy addresses, and those transferring into our district from other educational settings. This policy will be on the agenda for first reading at the January 12, 2021 school board meeting.
  
- d. 113.4: Confidentiality of Special Education Students – Dr. Tab Musser presented Policy 113.4 for Ms. Denise Galen who could not attend the meeting. Dr. Musser shared that maintaining a policy to match our professional practice with regards to confidentiality of special education students is now a requirement. There were very few additions to this policy as presented, however there was discussion clarifying the choice of “may” instead of “shall” in the section on Storage, Retention, and Destruction of Information. The policy is in alignment with PSBA guidelines and meets the requirements of special education compliance auditors. This policy will be on the agenda for first reading at the January 12, 2021 school board meeting.



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### **2. Discussion**

School Administration: Vape Discipline Procedures Discussion – Dr. Tab Musser opened the discussion of this topic by having building administrators from both the secondary and elementary level speak. Dr. Jodi Harrington, 10<sup>th</sup> grade assistant principal, shared while they have seen an overall decrease in the use of traditional cigarettes at the high school level, the use of e-cigarettes has been on the increase. Vaping in bathrooms is increasingly common. Students typically receive educational information on this topic in large group settings (such as the PAC), but this year all of it was presented electronically. There was brief discussion about the possibility of using various detecting devices and/or mounting fake devices. The district had looked into the use of detectors, but determined it was not cost-effective for a school of our size and would result in many false alarms when triggered by innocuous substances such as cologne or perfume. Mr. Mike Graham shared that legally the district has been advised to not use any fake devices. Ms. Stacy Kain, Mountville Elementary School Principal, shared for the elementary schools in the district, vaping is not something they are seeing. She shared that it seems to start among students at the middle school level and then increases in popularity and usage at the high school.

There was an executive session immediately following the committee meeting to discuss safety and security.

#### **Future Meeting Dates:**

*January 14, 2021*

*February 11, 2021*

*March 11, 2021*

*April 15, 2021*

*May 13, 2021*

**Board Review / Action Items:** *None*

**The meeting concluded at 11:53 am.**