

Policy Committee Meeting
Wednesday, October 18, 2017
T/E Administrative Offices, Room 200
7:00 p.m.

Board Committee Members: Kevin Buraks, Chair; Kate Murphy, Ed Sweeney

Other Board Members: Doug Carlson

T/E School District Representatives: Rich Gusick, Ken Roos, Mark Cataldi, Mike Szymendera, Jeanne Pocalyko

Community Members: Doug Anestad

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the September 7, 2017 meeting were approved.

Public Comment

Doug Anestad commented on Regulation 5461: Maintaining Appropriate Boundaries with Students.

Review of Policies for 2nd Reading

Policy and Regulation 1126: Website Accessibility

This new Policy and Regulation are part of the continued efforts to ensure the District's website is accessible to all visitors. In accordance with best practices set forth by the Office of Civil Rights, the intention of this Policy and Regulation is to affirm the District's commitment to making all new, newly-added, or modified online content and functionality accessible to people with disabilities as measured by conformance to industry standards for web content. The Policy will be sent to the Board of School Directors for a second reading at their meeting on October 23, 2017. Regulation 1126 was approved with a minor revision.

Policy and Regulation 4030: Appointment of Employees and Required Clearances

The title of Policy and Regulation was revised to use the term Certifications instead of Clearances. Employees are required to obtain certifications for child abuse, PA State Police criminal record check and FBI criminal record check as a condition of employment, and they must be renewed every 60 months. Information about how to apply for and obtain employment certifications can be found on the District website, and also the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services' website. Individuals whose background check/certifications reveal an offense that would disqualify the individual from obtaining work in the District under applicable law shall not be considered for employment. Policy 4040: Obligation to Report Driver's License Suspensions and Revocations and Policy 4041: Obligation to Report Criminal Offenses will be listed as cross-references. The Policy will be sent to the Board of School Directors for a second reading at their meeting on October 23, 2017. Regulation 4030 was approved with a minor revision.

Policy and Regulation 4035: Dress and Appearance

This existing Policy and Regulation specifies guidelines to appropriate dress and appearance, as well as restrictions to the promotion of religion and political advocacy for District employees only. Revisions were made to apply the same requirements for non-District employed aides and other professionals while performing services to the District. The Policy will be sent to the Board of School Directors for a second reading at their meeting on October 23, 2017. Regulation 4035 was approved at the September 7, 2017 meeting.

Policy and Regulation 5436: Reporting Suspected Child Abuse

This Policy was revised to specify that the term mandated reporters is defined in the accompanying Regulation. All school employees are required to report suspected child abuse if the person has reasonable cause to suspect that a child is a victim of child abuse. In compliance with the law, engaging a child in trafficking was added to the list of reportable offenses. A direct link to the State's electronic reporting system for suspected child abuse was updated in the Regulation. The Policy will be sent to the Board of School Directors for a second reading at their meeting on October 23, 2017. Regulation 5436 was approved at the September 7, 2017 meeting.

Information

None

Follow Up from Previous Policy Committee Meeting

Regulation 5461: Maintaining Appropriate Boundaries with Students

This Regulation address a range of behaviors that includes unlawful or improper interactions with students. All District Adults shall be expected to maintain professional, moral and ethical relationships with District students that are conducive to an effective, safe learning environment. The Regulation was revised to include the definition of a "District Employee." Other terms that are defined in the Regulation, such as "legitimate educational reason" and "electronic communication," will be moved to the beginning of the Regulation. Additional examples of conduct that could or may violate professional boundaries were specified. Furthermore, District Employees are prohibited from allowing a student to use their cell phone or other personal electronic devise, except in an emergency situation. District Employees are prohibited from using personal email, text messaging, instant messaging, and social-networking accounts, websites, and any other applications for communicating with students that are not specifically authorized. If a District Employee plans to use electronical or digital messages, including text messages, then permission must be obtained from the student's parent/guardian and the building Principal. In the case where a personal relationship exists or develops between a District Adult and a student's family, the District Adult is strongly encouraged to maintain professional boundaries and has the burden to demonstrate that the student's parent/guardian had actual knowledge of and consented with the conduct deviating from the professional boundaries as specified in the Regulation. Any adult who is aware of or suspects a violation of the Regulation shall immediately notify the Superintendent or an administrator. Questions or concerns about the Policy or Regulation should be directed to the Director of Assessment and Accountability or building Principal. Regulation 5461 was approved with minor revisions.

Regulation 5455: Homeless Students

This Regulation specifies the implementation of the law for homeless children and youth and governs entitlements to students who are deemed homeless. The categories of homeless children and youths are specified in the Regulation, as well as procedures for enrollment of a new student or continued enrollment of a current student. Homeless students are provided with services comparable to those offered to other District students, such as transportation, school nutrition programs, and educational programming for which they meet eligibility criteria. Title I mandates that funds be reserved to serve homeless children. The District's Director of State and Federal Programs serves as the designated liaison for homeless students. Regulation 5455 was approved with minor revisions.

Policies and Regulations for Review and Discussion

Policy and Regulation 4040: Obligation to Report Driver's License Suspensions and Revocations

This Policy is cross-referenced in Regulation 4030: Appointment of Employees and Required Clearances. The Policy was originally adopted in January 2007 and a new Regulation was drafted to accompany the Policy. Any employee whose essential job requirements include a valid driver's license

must report any suspension or revocation of their driver's license to the Director of Human Resources no later than 72 hours of receiving notice. Contracted service providers who are responsible for transporting District students, employees or property must notify the District any time any of its employees or agents who are performing work for or on behalf of the District have had their driver's license suspended or revoked. The Policy was reviewed and no changes were made. The Regulation was approved as presented.

Policy and Regulation 6146: Student Athletics

The Policy establishes guiding principles to the establishment and implementation of the athletic program, including course credit, equal opportunity, gender eligibility, management and extracurricular program offerings. Students participating in student athletics are subject to all school rules, Board Policies and Administrative Regulations and the provisions contained in any Student Handbook or Code of Conduct. Additionally, any applicable regulations of the Central League and PIAA apply. Student athletes in interscholastic, intramural and club sports and their parent/guardian must sign the (1) Sudden cardiac arrest symptoms and warning signs information sheet and (2) Concussion and traumatic brain injury information sheet. The Policy will be sent to the Board of School Directors for a first reading at their meeting on October 23, 2017. Regulation 6146 was approved with a minor revision.

Regulation 5401: Student Discipline

The Regulation provides guidelines for developing self-discipline, disciplinary action, special procedures for suspension of students with disabilities, and bullying procedures. The Regulation was last revised in October 2016. Several references to timelines for suspendable offenses were corrected to specify school days instead of calendar days. Regulation 5401 was approved as presented.

Additional Announcement

The meeting time of the Education Committee changed to 1:00 PM on November 1, 2017 due to the availability of the demographer who will provide an update on enrollment projections.

Future Meetings

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 9, 2017. The remainder of the meetings for the 2017-2018 school year will be determined and published at a later date. All meetings are held at the Tredyffrin/Easttown Administration Offices, 940 West Valley Road, Suite 1700, in Room 200 at 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.

2017 Policy Committee Goals:

1. To identify and examine critical issues facing the District from a Policy and Regulation perspective.
2. To review existing and develop new Policies and Regulations in response to legal requirements, administrative recommendations, Board priorities, community input and external issues.
3. To communicate Policy and Regulation revisions to stakeholders via webpage postings, email messages, and oral reports at Board meetings.
4. To continue with a cyclical review of Board Policies and Regulations in determining if they should be revised, updated or repealed.