

**Draft Pending Committee Approval  
Policy Committee Meeting  
Thursday, September 22, 2016  
T/E Administrative Offices, Room 200  
7:00 p.m.**

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

**Other Board Members:** Doug Carlson, Virginia Lastner, Roberta Hotinski

**T/E School District Representatives:** Rich Gusick, Ken Roos, Andrea Chipego, Mark Cataldi

**Community Members:** Theodore Horvath, Jerry Henige, Doug Anestad, Peg Layden

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the June 9, 2016 meeting were approved.

**Public Comment**

Doug Anestad commented on self-carry medication; Regulation 5115 School Attendance Areas and a map of the District; Policy and Regulation 5401 Student Discipline and athletic code of conduct; Policy 5415 Dress and Appearance; Regulation 5227 Graduation Requirements; Policy and Regulation 6141 Nondiscrimination of Students in School and Classroom Practices; Policy and Regulation 8060 Security of District Facilities and the proposed pathway at Valley Forge Middle School.

**Review of Policies for 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading**

After review and discussion, it was recommended that the following Policies be sent to the Board of School Directors for a second reading at their meeting on September 26, 2016.

**Policy and Regulation 5421: Hazing**

The original District Policy and Regulation on the prohibition of hazing was adopted on November 27, 2000. Revisions to the existing District Policy and Regulation were made due to the Antihazing Law that was recently amended by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania secondary schools are now included in the law, which previously only applied to institutions of higher education. Hazing is defined as any action or situation that recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a person for the purpose of initiation, admission into, affiliation with, or continued membership in any school organization, club, team, group or activity. Students, administrators, coaches, sponsors, volunteers, District employees, representatives, agents, and contractors shall be aware of and promptly report any incidents of hazing activity.

**Policy and Regulation 5420: Harassment of Students By Non-Students**

**Policy and Regulation 4330: Harassment by and of District Employees**

The District prohibits any form of harassment. Revisions to these Policies and Regulations include a change in the title and expanded definition of harassment. Harassment may include inappropriate verbal, written, electronic, graphic, or physical conduct relating to an individual's race, color, national origin/ethnicity, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or religion. Harassment, by definition, includes sexual harassment. Complaints of harassment by a student against another student will be addressed in the same manner as other student disciplinary investigations. Each staff member will maintain an educational and work environment free from all forms of harassment. Incidents of harassment shall be reported promptly, and investigations will be conducted in an impartial and as confidential a manner as possible.

**Information**

None

## **Follow Up from Previous Policy Committee Meeting**

None

### **Policies and Regulations for Review and Discussion**

#### **Regulation 6194: District Issued Laptops**

This Regulation was revised in preparation for laptop distribution to students. Tracking of the serial number was removed from the agreement form in order to increase efficiency with laptop distribution. Serial numbers are being recorded on a separate form that students sign indicating acknowledgement of receipt of a District-issued laptop. This Regulation was approved for adoption.

#### **Regulation 5115: School Attendance Areas**

Revisions to the Regulation were made to replace the description of the location formerly known as the Chesterbrook Shopping Center with the name of the new development, Parkview at Chesterbrook. This Regulation was approved for adoption.

#### **Policy and Regulation 5401: Student Discipline**

Revisions to this Policy include clarification that students may be disciplined for offenses committed on school grounds, in school vehicles or while participating in school-sponsored activities on or off school premises or that have some other legally-recognized nexus to the school. Athletic coaches' code of conduct was discussed and will be brought back to the committee for further dialogue. The Regulation was revised to provide clarity to the Protocol for Risk Assessment of Threatening Behaviors. The revised Policy will be sent to the Office of Safe Schools for cyclical compliance. The Policy will be sent to the Board of School Directors for a first reading at their meeting on September 26, 2016.

#### **Regulation 4497: Team Facilitator Job Description**

This Regulation was introduced to specify the job goal, standard qualifications, essential functions and responsibilities of the Team Facilitator. The elementary and middle school Team Facilitator position is similar to the high school Department Chair, which has a separate job description in the Regulations. This Regulation was approved for adoption.

#### **Policy 4970: Athletic Team Coaches**

This draft Policy was deferred until next month's meeting.

#### **Policy and Regulation 6141: Nondiscrimination of Students in School and Classroom Practices**

The District prohibits any form of discrimination. Revisions to the Policy and Regulation include an expanded definition of nondiscrimination. Students will not be discriminated against based on race, color, age, creed, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, ancestry, national origin or handicap/disability. The Policy will be sent to the Board of School Directors for a first reading at their meeting on September 26, 2016. A new section in the Regulation on Gender Expansive and Transgender (GET) students was presented in draft form. The committee began discussion about access to restrooms and locker rooms for GET students and will continue the discussion at the next committee meeting.

The following three policies and one regulation were drafted to comply with recent changes in the Public School Code.

**Policy 5120: Withdrawal from School**

This new Policy was introduced to include various circumstances in which students may withdrawal from school. This Policy will be brought back to the committee at the next meeting after drafting further revisions.

**Policy 5415: Dress and Appearance**

This new Policy conveys that students have the right to determine their dress and appearance as long as it conforms to norms of decency. The norms of decency will be established in a corresponding regulation, which will be drafted and placed on the agenda of the next committee meeting. Students may be required to wear certain types of clothing while participating in physical education classes or in activities such as music performances and athletics. This Policy will be sent to the Board of School Directors for a first reading at their meeting on September 26, 2016.

**Policy 6195: Title I Parental Involvement**

Title I is a federal program that provides funding to local school districts to improve the academic achievement of disadvantaged students. Individual schools are given the designation of Title I by the US Department of Education. The District has been in compliance with the federal law regarding Title I. This new Policy was introduced in response to the new mandate in the Public School Code that requires posting a policy regarding Title I. The Policy outlines the process in which the District and parents/guardians will jointly develop a written parental involvement plan. This Policy will be brought back to the committee at the next meeting after drafting further revisions.

**Regulation 5227: Graduation Requirements**

Revisions to this Regulation articulate that up to one credit of coursework in computer science may be applied to the mathematics credit requirement for graduation. Computer science courses that qualify for mathematics credit will be published annually in the Program of Studies. This Regulation was approved for adoption.

**Future Meetings**

Additional meetings are scheduled for Thursday, October 20, 2016, Thursday, November 17, 2016 and Thursday, December 15, 2016.

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 10:07 PM.

**2016 Policy Committee Goals:**

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