

Lehigh Area School District

Lehigh, Pennsylvania

Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 5, 2021

6:45 PM



I. Pledge of Allegiance

II. Call to Order

III. Roll Call

	Present	Absent
Mr. David F. Bradley, Sr., Board Member	X	☐
Mrs. Rita Spinelli, Board Treasurer	X	☐
Mr. Larry Stern, Board President	X	☐
Mr. Jonathan Cleaver, Superintendent	X	☐
Ms. Janine Partenio, Recording Secretary	X	☐

Also Present:

Kay Barry, Terrie Scott, Tim Tkach, Barbara Bowes, Gail Maholick, Samantha Kistler, Suzanne Howland and Wally Zlomsowitch.

IV. Policy Review for First Reading for Public Review and Comment

1) [Policy 626 - Federal Fiscal Compliance](#)

J. Cleaver explained how the policy grouping of 626 discusses the Title I program and that there is currently a Title I audit. He stated that some of the policies needed to be updated in order to stay in compliance. He explained how some districts utilize these as administrative regulations or policies.

T. Tkach stated these UGG policies came out in about 2017 and are necessary for Title Programs. He said this is part of the federal monitoring process and mentioned that the audit will be finishing by Friday. He stated that there were no financial findings with Title Programs.

T. Tkach mentioned how some districts utilize these recommendations as procedures; however, he recommended keeping them as policies. He explained the procurement policy needed to be updated to keep current with the thresholds and that it is recommended to review every three years for updates in regulations (for Title IA, Title IIA, Title III and Title IV). He said he could answer any questions on any of the 626 grouping of policies.

D. Bradley asked who wrote the policies. J. Cleaver said the recommendations come from both PSBA and PDE. D. Bradley asked who else edits the policies. J. Cleaver said the administration goes through to make sure policies are updated correctly. D. Bradley asked if the original copy from PSBA/PDE was provided to the Committee when they are reviewed. J. Cleaver said the edited version of the policy is released to the Committee. D. Bradley felt L. Stern was becoming a "blind-trusting rubber-samper." D. Bradley said he did a Google search with BoardDocs policies 626 and the policies should give more authority to the Board. He claimed the administration took those authorities away from the Board. He did not understand why he was getting this "garbage" at the Policy Meetings. He insisted on getting the original documentation from PSBA/PDE. J. Cleaver explained that the updates are being shown on the actual District policies. He asked

where the change was that took authority from the Board and gave it to the Superintendent. D. Bradley said it was on his own screen. He could not explain where to find it. L. Stern and D. Bradley argued. D. Bradley said they were receiving a lobbyist's view from the subordinate administration of the Pennsylvania Department of Education and Pennsylvania School Boards Association policy recommendations. He wanted the information directly from PDE and PSBA. He continued to argue and repeat himself. He said J. Cleaver and L. Stern was silencing the community. J. Cleaver explained that the public has the right to comment at all Policy Committee Meetings as well as at the Board Meetings. D. Bradley continued to argue with L. Stern and J. Cleaver. L. Stern recommended moving the 626 grouping of policies to the Board Meeting for First Reading for Public Review and Comment. R. Spinelli agreed.

- 2) [Policy 626.2 - Travel Reimbursement](#)
 - 3) [Policy 626.3 - Cash Management](#)
 - 4) [Policy 626.4 - Allowability of Costs](#)
 - 5) [Policy 626.5 - Procurement for Federal Grants](#)
 - 6) [Policy 626.6 - Administration of Federal Funds - Type of Costs, Obligations and Property Management](#) (NEW POLICY)
 - 7) [Policy 626.7 - Grant Subrecipient Monitoring Procedures - Federal Programs](#) (New Policy)
 - 8) [Policy 113.1 - Discipline of Students with Disabilities](#)
 - 9) [Policy 113.4 - Confidentiality of Special Education Student Information](#)
- V. **Policy Review for Second Reading and Final Approval**
- 1) [Policy 251 - Homeless Students](#)
 - 2) [Policy 808 - Food Services](#)

VI. Public Comment

B. Bowes told D. Bradley to shut up and felt the Board should see the original documentation from PSBA to check and see the edits. She felt it was not working anymore and did not think it mattered how long they were doing it that way. She felt it should be consistent with the original documents. R. Spinelli explained the policy editing process through PSBA. She said the attorneys with PSBA go through the policies to make sure the policy is worded in accordance with law. She said PDE does not actually put out policies for school boards but puts out laws for school districts to follow. J. Cleaver said that was correct. He said PSBA sends out monthly updates to policies for school

districts to review to make sure we are in compliance or recommend a new policy that we do not have. He said about 98% of everything comes from there. He said they go into the District policy and strike out any of the old verbiage in red and add any of the new verbiage in green, to make it easier to see. R. Spinelli said the administration is not changing the policy from PDE, because PDE does not put out policies, they put out laws or recommendations to have a policy on a subject. J. Cleaver said yes. R. Spinelli said PSBA gives a suggested policy for boards to tweak how they need to and they would review those policies to make sure that you are still in compliance. She asked if the administration was taking what PSBA sends, exactly the way it is, and crossing out our wrong lines and adding in the suggestions from PSBA. J. Cleaver said that is correct. R. Spinelli stated that they did not need to see all of that information beforehand, they just needed to see it once the changes were made and have the Board approve the changes that have been made. She said if someone wanted to vote no, they can, but they would be voting no on what several attorneys have already run through, to make sure the policy is in compliance with the laws that apply. J. Cleaver said that was correct. He said if there is a new law enacted, PDE would review the law and send over notifications to make sure you are in compliance with different Acts and laws. R. Spinelli added that if the District makes a change to a policy that they do not run through PSBA, we would run the risk of being non-compliant with the law. She said she understands what B. Bowes is saying; however, R. Spinelli felt that B. Bowes may not understand the process. R. Spinelli said no one sets policy. PDE sets recommendations and laws to follow and PSBA goes through the policy to make it legal and compliant with law. She said the Board goes through it to make sure that the policy is being updated. She said that is what was being done this evening. J. Cleaver added that PSBA makes sure that the districts are following the federal guidelines, as well. He said the Title program is a Federal Monitoring Program, so the state does the monitoring, but it is done on behalf of the Federal government. He said Title, Special Education and IDEA, are governed by Federal Programs.

D. Bradley said the Board failed to comply with the laws for five years, despite policies. He believed they were continuing to make the same mistake by “rubber-stamping” the policies. He discussed the Hazing policy and making sure it would be applied. R. Spinelli said that was not what was being discussed this evening. She said he was trying to bring personal issues into this subject matter. She said they could not get any further in the discussion on policy and recommended adjourning at this time, since they already had public comment.

VII. Adjournment

Next scheduled Board Meeting is on Monday, May 24, 2021 at 7:00 PM

Next scheduled Policy Committee Meeting is on Wednesday, June 2, 2021 at 6:45 PM

MOTION by L. Stern , SECONDED by R. Spinelli, to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:14 PM.