

Lehigh Area School District
1000 Union Street
Lehigh, PA 18235
Wednesday, October 6, 2021 at 6:45 PM
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING - MINUTES

1. Opening Exercises

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Call to Order

Presiding Officer, L. Stern, called the Policy Committee Meeting to order at 6:46 PM.

C. Roll Call

PR/AB

PR	Mr. David F. Bradley
PR	Mrs. Rita Spinelli
PR	Mr. Larry Stern



Also Present:

Jonathan Cleaver, Superintendent
Janine Partenio, Recording Secretary

Barbara Bowes, Ryan Bowman, Jennifer Liable and Dache Zelrick.

2. Policy Review

A. First Reading of Policies

247 - Hazing

J. Cleaver mentioned how this policy was reviewed by the solicitor and updated to the most recent version of the PSBA recommendation for 2021 to revise the policy of 2008. He explained that it included updates from both 2018 and 2021.

B. Bowes asked if there was an update from PSBA in 2018 or 2019. J. Cleaver said he did not look back that far as they were using the most recent version from PSBA from 2021.

R. Bowman questioned if the confidentiality clause on the reporting form would follow the standard confidentiality clause for the District. J. Cleaver explained how the confidentiality clause on the reporting form is for the person completing the form and the Title IX coordinator taking information on the Report. R. Bowman questioned the procedure for a hazing complaint. J. Cleaver said they may differ depending on the severity of the hazing incident. They discussed how the original complaint would go to the building administrator, athletic director or coach and then move forward to the Superintendent. R. Bowman asked if it would go to school police. J. Cleaver if it is warranted for a citation or it may be turned over to local authorities. R. Bowman questioned local authorities, expulsion and Board knowledge. J. Cleaver stated the Board would approve or deny the recommendation of expulsion. He explained the Board must remain unaware of details and specific information in order to be a deciding factor on the case. B. Bowes asked what a Waiver of Expulsion was. J. Cleaver stated it would be a parent/guardian approval for an alternative placement. They discussed the difference between a waiver of expulsion and a regular expulsion and the hearing process. D. Bradley was citing school code and expressed his disagreement with the waiver of expulsion process.

B. Bowes wanted the legal citations to be referenced in the policy. J. Partenio explained that PSBA will finalize the policy upon approval of the policy to add all legal citations. D Bradley said the policy was missing accountability. R. Bowman said the accountability would be specific to the issue. J. Cleaver mentioned how the Coaches Handbook & Code of Conduct both address hazing. He mentioned how the revised Coaches Handbook was very detailed and has accountability. He also mentioned how it had stemmed from the incident. He said the handbook could be found online on the District Website then the Athletics webpage then housed under Forms & Links.

D. Bradley felt the verbiage of the PA law 2808 A of Title 18 needed to be added into the policy for reference. He discussed how Board Members take an oath and have a responsibility to follow the policies. He continued talking and the community wanted him to get to the point. J. Cleaver reminded D. Bradley that school law does not have the authority over criminal law.

J. Liable asked if the incident was investigated criminally as well as by the school. J. Cleaver said yes.

D. Bradley referenced using his "bully pulpit" to continue discussing the policy. R. Bowman became irate for D. Bradley using the term "bully pulpit" and asked L. Stern to remove D. Bradley from the meeting for using that statement. R. Bowman and D. Bradley began arguing loudly.

249 - Bullying/Cyberbullying (will replace current 249)

B. Bowes questioned how the policies state that the administration would come up with procedures and asked why the Board could not be privy to the administrative procedures. D. Bradley began speaking loudly over everyone. The public asked to move forward with the meeting.

D. Bradley and L. Stern got into a heated conversation over D. Bradley's comment about the Auditor General's Report. and L. Stern adjourned the meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:08 PM

The following policies were on the agenda to be discussed for First Reading:

815 - Acceptable Use Of Technology and Electronic Resources (will replace current 815)

815.2 - Use of District Network and Internet (New Policy)

816 - Use of Livestream Video on School District Property (New Policy)

The following policies were on the agenda to be discussed for Second Reading and Final Approval:

140.1 - Extracurricular Participation by Charter/Cyber Charter Students

815.1 - Use of District Owned Technology (New Policy)

The following policies were on the agenda to be discussed regarding being rescinded upon adoption of new policies:

249 - Anti-Bullying

815 - Acceptable Use of Communications and Information Systems

The next Policy Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 3, 2021, at 6:45 PM.