

**Saucon Valley School District
Academic and Personnel Committee
Minutes of November 17, 2020 Zoom Meeting**

Present were Academic and Personnel Committee Board Members: Susan Baxter, Cedric Dettmar, Shamim Pakzad, and Tracy Magnotta. Also present were: Administrators Craig Butler, Jaime Vlasaty, Amy Braxmeier, Tamara Gary, and School Directors Sandra Miller and Shawn Welch.

Meeting commenced at 5:02 pm.

Mr. Dettmar, second by Dr. Pakzad, made a motion to approve the agenda.

Mr. Dettmar, second by Dr. Pakzad, made a motion to approve the minutes of November 1, 2020.

I. High School Program of Studies

Ms. Gary walked the committee through the POS document covering various areas such as grading, graduation requirements, scheduling, programming, advanced placement courses, math pathways, schedule change procedure, virtual programming, standardized testing including PSAT and SAT, and all departmental offerings. BAVTS courses and changes were also mentioned and highlighted by Ms. Gary. New courses for the high school for the 2021-2022 school year were also presented and discussed.

Director Baxter brought up a concern about the schedule change process and it being somewhat complicated and not user friendly for students and parents. Dr. Butler stated the process will be reviewed.

Concerns were raised by Directors Dettmar and Pakzad regarding the math pathways, the sequencing of math courses, some courses not meeting all year and problems with student progress and preparation for subsequent courses and how this may impede the success of some students due to a lack of strong foundational knowledge. This issue will be discussed further at a subsequent meeting.

The committee also raised the topic of the number of electives available at the high school and whether consideration should be given to removing elective courses that have not run for consecutive years.

The committee discussed and approved to start time of the Academic and Personnel Committee meetings to begin at 6 pm instead of 5 pm for all meetings moving forward.

Meeting adjourned at 6:43. Unanimously approved.

Next Meetings:

Wednesday, December 2, 2020 at 6 pm

Tuesday, December 15, 2020 at 6 pm