

Saucon Valley School District
Academic and Personnel Committee
Minutes of February 7, 2024

Present at the February 7, 2024, Academic & Personnel Committee were Academic and Personnel Committee Board Members William Broun, Cedric Dettmar, Tracy Magnotta - online, and Dr. Shamim Pakzad. Also present were Superintendent Jaime Vlasaty, David Bonenberger, Business Manager, and Robert Frey, Director of Student and Community Relations.

I. Call to the Order – 5:05 pm – *Cedric Dettmar, Committee member*

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Recording of Attendance – *Cedric Dettmar, Committee member*

3-Present, 1-Absent (Magnotta)

Visitors: Katie Fisher, Julie Davis, Jillian Brodhead, Lara McCarthy, Viv Demko on Zoom, Dr. Parsons, John Conte, Jason Stern, Jeanne Reilly. Caroline LoVerdi arrived at 5:20 on Zoom.

IV. Motion to Approve Agenda – Dr. Pakzad, seconded by Mr. Broun moved to approve the agenda. Vote: 3-yes, 0-no, 1-absent (Magnotta)

V. Approval of Minutes – Dr. Pakzad, seconded by Mr. Broun moved to approve the January 3, 2024 minutes. Vote: 3-yes, 0-no. 1-absent (Magnotta)

VI. Courtesy of the Floor to Visitors – Agenda Items Only – None

VII. Update: High School College Update – Katie Fisher

Tracy Magnotta arrived at 5:20 pm on Zoom.

School Counselor Katie Fisher presented information on colleges and universities students apply to. To track where students have been accepted, the student must self-report in Naviance.

What do the counselors do to help students with college prep:

Seniors

Senior College Night

Financial Aid Night

Individual student meeting/Family- college list review, application review

College visit recommendations

Interview Prep

Letter of continued interest

Meetings to make final decisions

Juniors

Parent information night

Individual/Family meeting senior year course selection, Exploration of leadership roles, standardized testing discussion, standardized testing discussion, preliminary college list

Advising on college application

Exploring outside opportunities (summer programs, experiential learning, internships, etc.)

Freshman and Sophomores

All students have the opportunity to schedule meetings at any time to discuss college and their goals after High School

Advise as needed based on individual needs.

The question was asked what are top private schools doing that we aren't doing. What could we learn from them to get more kids into top-tier schools?

Most have a college and career counselor, which we have. They probably have more connections to colleges than us. Maybe more college visits.

What are we looking to grow?

Senior/junior family meetings

College application boot camp

Expansion of experiential learning

Identify college/career pathways early in high school to target college-bound students.

VIII. Discussion & Action: Registered Behavior Technicians – Jillian Brodhead

Ms. Brodhead's recommendation is to have all paraprofessionals complete the training and have those who are interested take the competency test.

The cost is \$85/person for the 40 hours. The online training component for the competency test is \$110/person. The total to train is \$23,000. The training would be over the summer.

Pakzad motioned that what Mrs. Brodhead presented with whatever modifications she wanted to make be brought to the Board, seconded by Mr. Broun. Vote: 4-yes, 0-no

IX. Update: High School Course Proposals/Dual Enrollment

HS - AP human geography, offered 9 through 12th grade; any one of the teachers feel comfortable teaching that course

AP Pre-Calculus was proposed by a teacher, but the math department does not feel it is appropriate at this time.

Dual enrollment – University of Pittsburg courses, which are Business Calculus and Into to Matrices\Linear Algebra. They are year-long classes worth 4 credits at college and count toward credit at school.

AP Macro and Microeconomics - if offered, needs a review of offerings. Staff concerned with taking on these two classes and who will teach these courses. No one feels they have the background to teach these classes.

Sports Officiating proposed course as an elective for 2024-2025 students who are 16 and 17-year-old can become trained and can officiate Middle school level and then become a PIAA official at 18.

The administration requested to gain an interest inventory of proposed courses. The committee approved.

X. Discussion & Action: Policy 137 – Home Education Instruction

Updating of language to reflect school code.

Dr. Pakzad, seconded by Mr. Broun, moved to send this item to the Board for approval. Vote: 4-yes, 0-no.

XI. New Business - None

XII. Old Business - None

XIII. Citizens' Inquiries and Comments – None

XIV. Announcements

Future Meetings ~

Wednesday, March 6, 2024 – 5:00 PM

XV. Motion to Adjourn Meeting

Dr. Pakzad, seconded by Mr. Broun, moved to adjourn the meeting.

Vote: 4-yes, 0-no

8:25 pm