M I N U T E S
Special Meeting
Policy Committee
Monday, October 6, 2025; 5:30 p.m.
Library Media Center
Bethlehem Elementary School

Committee Members Present:
Chris Matta, Chair
Alice Jones
Carol Ann Brown
Caren Lipinski

Absent:
n/a

Also Present:
Brian Murphy, Superintendent of Schools

I. Call to order

Chris Matta called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

II. **Policies**

The Committee reviewed two key policies for approval: a replacement criminal justice background check policy for parents and employees, and a new state-mandated restorative practices policy for challenging student behavior.

A. Policy and Regulation 4112.5/4212.5 Security Check/Fingerprinting/Criminal Justice Information

- Superintendent Murphy presented a replacement policy for background checks covering parents and employees
- Policy designates a criminal agency coordinator and director of finance operations to oversee the process
- Noted the policy addresses physical storage and access to records, including data destruction methods
- The district has been conducting comprehensive background checks for years, including fingerprinting and drug testing for all school personnel including bus drivers
- A thorough vetting process is important for school safety
- Policy moves to the board for first reading

APPROVED

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Motion
Chris Matta made a motion to accept/approve Policy 4112.5/4212.5 as presented and that it be brought to the full board for a first read and subsequent approval, seconded Alice Jones, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

B. Policy and Regulation 5144.12 Challenging Behavior Prevention: Restorative Practices Response

- Superintendent Murphy presented a new state-mandated policy that replaces all existing disciplinary policies and practices
- Policy was developed with input from staff and the school climate improvement committee as part of required legislation for school districts
- Policy focuses on building students back up rather than just punishment while still holding students accountable
- Includes definitions, general principles, and guidelines for building administrators to implement restorative practices
- Strong cooperation with juvenile review board
- Policy moves to the board for a first reading

Motion
Chris Matta made a motion to accept/approve Policy 5131.911 as presented and that it be brought to the full board for a first read and subsequent approval, seconded Caren Lipinski, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

IV. Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at 5:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Paige
Board Clerk

Recorded and filed subject to Board of Education approval by: Patricia Paige, Board Clerk
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APPROVED