

POLICY MEETING

09/08/2025 [05:00 PM-06:00 PM] @ Board of Directors Room

1. Call to Order

Minutes

Dr. Cysyk called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. The meeting was audio recorded.

2. Roll Call

Minutes

Members Present: Joshua Cysyk, Lindsay Drew, Stewart McCarver, and Tracey Royo (Board Members)

Citizen Advisors in Attendance: Matt Bixler

Citizen Advisors Absent: Lindsay Caldonetti

Staff Members/Public Present: Michele Agee (Board Secretary), Jared Nicholson (IT), Jennifer Renz (Board Member), Jesse Rawls (Administration), Honesta Romberger (Board Member), and Stacy Winslow (Administration)

3. Approval of Summary Minutes

Minutes

On a motion by Ms. Drew and a second by Dr. McCarver, the minutes were approved.

4. Unfinished Business

5. New/Revised Policies

5.a. Policy 102 Academic Standards (Revision)

Policy 102. Academic Standards was updated to reflect the changes to the state standards for the 2025-2026 school year. Changes include new requirements for science, environment, ecology, technology and engineering standards based on grade levels.

Minutes

On a motion by Mrs. Royo, with a second by Dr. McCarver, Policy 102 was recommended as revised to the full Board for 30-day review approval.

5.b. Policy 105 Curriculum (Revision)

Policy 105. Curriculum was revised to include a section addressing Special Instruction/Observances to be addressed as part of the district's plan.

Minutes

On a motion by Ms. Drew, with a second by Dr. McCarver, Policy 105 was recommended as revised to the full Board for 30-day review approval.

5.c. Policy 122 Extracurricular Activities (PSBA and Administration Proposed Revisions)

Policy 122. Extracurricular Activities was revised to focus on those extracurricular activities that are sponsored or approved by the Board, as well as additional revisions made for consistency and clarification purposes.

Definition of Extracurricular Activities -

The definition of **extracurricular activities** was revised to:

1. Include the term "**athletic activities**" directly into the paragraph defining extracurricular activities. The definition of the term, "**athletic activity**" references [24 P.S. Sec. 53-5322](#) and [14-1425](#) as the foundation for the definition; however, for purposes of Policy 122, the definition of **athletic activity** has been revised to remove the term "interscholastic athletics". Policy 123 governs interscholastic athletics.
2. Remove the phrase, "are marked by student participation in the processes of initiation, planning, organizing and execution", as not all extracurricular activities are limited by these conditions.

The new definition for extracurricular activities is more concise, stating: **For purposes of this policy, extracurricular activities refers to programs, including athletic activities, that are sponsored or approved by the Board, are conducted wholly or partly outside the regular school day and are equally available to all students who voluntarily elect to participate.**

Eligibility Standards -

New revisions expand the reference to eligibility standards to include options for the district to consider that will establish consistent standards for eligibility to be met by all students participating in extracurricular activities. The district must place an **{X}** in each bracket to indicate the option(s) the school entity wishes to include in the policy:

{ } Complied with the requirements of applicable Board policies and administrative regulations.

{ } Attended school regularly.

{ } Been in attendance on the day of the activity, event or practice for the hours required.

{ } Returned all school equipment previously used as directed.

{ } Adhered to other applicable conduct standards.

Off-Campus Activities -

The Off-Campus Activity section has been significantly revised to refer back to Policy 218. Student Discipline which contains a section regarding On and Off-Campus Activities that comply with law and the U.S. Supreme Court decision in Mahanoy Area School District v. B.L. (2021). Referring back to Policy 218 assists the district with enforcing a consistent decision-making process when considering discipline for student actions conducted when the student is off campus.

As a reminder, the Mahanoy decision highlighted the heavy scrutiny that school entities face for discipline of a student based on speech that occurs outside of the school's campus. The Court stated that there are three characteristics that impact a school's authority to regulate a student's off-campus speech:

- Off-campus speech typically happens when parents are responsible for their children - not school officials.

- Off-campus speech typically occurs when on-campus school rules are not in force. School regulation of student speech 24 hours a day/7 days a week would prohibit students from engaging in certain kinds of speech at all.
- Schools have an interest in protecting unpopular speech by their students, especially off-campus, "because America's schools are nurseries of democracy".

The Court did affirm that schools may have a special interest in regulating some student speech occurring off-campus if such speech materially and substantially disrupts or interferes with school operations or programs.

The Court's decision states that school entities may address student speech originating off-campus:

- If it is reasonably foreseeable to be disruptive in the school environment;
- Where a direct connection to school and education can be established; and
- Where the speech is directed at the school community.

The Court provided the following examples of circumstances that may implicate a school's special interests in addressing off-campus speech or conduct: serious or severe bullying or harassment targeting particular individuals in the school community; threats aimed at teachers or other students; failure to follow school rules concerning assignments, the use of computers, or participation in other online school activities; and breaches of school security devices, including material maintained on school computers.

It is essential that building principals and other staff responsible for student discipline are trained and have a thorough understanding of their authority and the limitations related to regulating off-campus student speech and conduct, as well as the need to articulate in detail the nature and extent of disruption to or interference with the school environment thought to be caused by on or off-campus student expression or conduct and the specific manner by which the student expression or conduct involved is thought to have caused it. School officials should consult with their solicitor when developing and enforcing student handbooks, codes of conduct, Board policies and other rules related to off-campus speech and conduct.

For reference, Policy 218. Student Discipline includes the following content regarding off-campus student conduct that:

- Involves, threatens or makes more likely violence, use of force or other serious harm directed at students, staff or the school environment;
- Materially and substantially disrupts or interferes with the school environment or educational process;
- Interferes with or threatens to interfere with the rights of students or staff or the safe and orderly operation of the school and school programs;
- Involves theft or vandalism of school property; or
- The proximity, timing or motive for the conduct or related factors establish a direct connection to attendance at school, to the school community, or to a school-sponsored activity.

Equal Access Act -

In Policy 122, the Authority section states that the Board shall make school facilities, supplies and equipment available and shall assign staff members for the support of extracurricular activities for students. Such availability and assignment shall be in accordance with the Equal Access Act **and other applicable laws, regulations and Board policies**. The policy was revised to include the bold content to more broadly encompass relevant statutes and policies.

The policy was also revised to remove the section providing specific details surrounding the Equal Access Act because a new policy, 122.1. Nonschool-Sponsored Student Groups was created to more fully incorporate the provisions for equal access.

Policy 122 is recommended for legal liability purposes.

Minutes

On a motion by Ms. Drew, with a second by Mrs. Royo, Policy 122 was recommended, as revised by the administration and to include discussed language of in compliance with the code of conduct in the student handbook, to the full Board for 30-day review approval.

5.d. Policy 122.1 Non-School-Sponsored Student Groups (PSBA Proposed New Policy)

Policy 122.1 Non-school-Sponsored Student Groups was created to address student groups that do not fall under Policy 122. Extracurricular Activities because the student group itself is not sponsored or approved by the Board. The purpose of Policy 122.1 is not to approve the "group", rather to approve the request for the opportunity for the group to meet on district premises. The district, if providing a limited open forum, must permit nonschool-sponsored student groups of secondary students to meet, without discrimination, on school premises during noninstructional time for the purpose of conducting a meeting regardless of the religious, political, philosophical or other content of the speech at such meetings. According to [20 U.S.C. 4071 et seq.](#) a limited open forum means when a public secondary school grants an offering to or opportunity for one or more non-curriculum-related student groups to meet on school premises during noninstructional time.

This policy addresses the requirements regarding the provision of Equal Access to non-school-sponsored student groups.

It is important to note that this policy is separate and distinct from the subjects below:

- Extracurricular activities that are sponsored or approved by the Board are governed by Policy 122. Extracurricular Activities.
- Nonschool organizations, groups and individuals initiating a request for use of school facilities or dissemination of materials are governed by policies 707. Use of School Facilities and 913. Nonschool Organizations/Groups/Individuals.

Policy 122.1 is recommended for legal liability purposes.

Minutes

On a motion by Dr. McCarver, with a second by Mrs. Royo, Policy 122.1 was approved to not move forward in becoming a district policy as it is already included in Policy 122.

5.e. Policy 123 Interscholastic Activities

Policy 123. Interscholastic Athletics was revised for consistency in terminology and references to applicable Board policies and the [PIAA Bylaws](#).

Eligibility -

For consistency with PIAA Bylaws Article V Health, the requirement for each student to be "free from injury" prior to participating in an interscholastic athletic activity has been moved and revised. This revision clarifies that it is the responsibility of a licensed physician as part of the student's physical examination to ensure that there are no obvious illnesses and/or injuries that would place the student or others at enhanced risk of injury.

Off-Campus Conduct -

The section of the policy regarding Off-Campus Conduct has been revised to refer to Policy 218. Student Discipline. This revision is consistent with content and reasoning described above for Policy 122. Extracurricular Activities.

{ } Name, Image and Likeness (NIL) -

A new section regarding Name, Image and Likeness (NIL) was added to the policy as an **option** for the district to select. The district must place an **{X}** in the bracket to indicate that the district wishes to address NIL in the policy. The policy content regarding NIL is consistent with PIAA Bylaws but is not a Board policy requirement. The NIL provision allows student athletes governed by PIAA the opportunity to benefit financially from their personal brand while maintaining their amateur status through commercial endorsements, promotions, etc. The student athlete must notify the building principal or Athletic Director within seventy-two (72) hours of entering into a NIL contract or agreement. The district may not otherwise be connected to the student's NIL experience.

Minutes

On a motion by Dr. McCarver, with a second by Ms. Drew, Policy 123 was recommended, as revised to the full Board for 30-day review approval.

5.f. Policy 209.2 Diabetes Management

Beginning with the 2025-2026 school year, in compliance with [PA School Code 24 P.S. Sec. 14-1414.12](#), each school entity must provide to parents and guardians of incoming elementary school students and students entering grade six, the [Type 1 Diabetes Fact Sheet](#) developed by the PA Department of Health. The Diabetes Fact Sheet must be made available in writing, electronically or on the school district's publicly accessible Internet website. Policy 209.2 was updated to include this parental notification requirement.

Policy 209.2 is recommended for legal liability purposes.

Minutes

On a motion by Ms. Drew, with a second by Mrs. Royo, Policy 209.2 was recommended, as revised to the full Board for 30-day review approval.

On a motion by Ms. Drew, with a second by Dr. McCarver, the motion for Policy 209.2 was recommended for amendment and approved.

On a motion by Ms. Drew, with a second by Dr. McCarver, Policy 209.2 was recommended, as amended to include language to include distribution while making available, to the full Board for 30-day review approval.

5.g. Policy 815 Acceptable Use of Technology Resources (Revision)

Solicitor reviewed and added language based upon legislation criminalizing the creation/use/distribution of AI generated child pornography.

Minutes

On a motion by Ms. Drew, with a second by Mrs. Royo, Policy 815 was recommended, as revised pending solicitor review for inclusion of students ages 18 and older, to the full Board for 30-day review approval.

6. Policy Committee Meeting Practices

Minutes

The committee discussed meeting practices going forward to include the following:

- define where the revision/recommendation is coming from; administration, PSBA, or solicitor
- designate a group of policies for review at the next meeting in an Anticipated section of the current agenda

7. Public Comment

Minutes

There was no public comment for the committee.

8. Adjournment

Minutes

Following a motion by Dr. McCarver with a second by Mrs. Royo, the meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.