

Gettysburg Area School District
Policy Meeting Minutes
November 11, 2025

Faculty & Staff Present: Brooke Harner, Karen Roper, and Vickie Saltzer

Board members Present: Al Moyer and Kathleen Pratt

Administrators Present: Matthew McFarland and Vanessa Sanders

Guests Present: Dr. Leigh Dalton and Julietta Booz

Policies and Administrative Guidelines Currently Under Review by Board Policy Committee:

1. Policy 204- Attendance- Updates
 - a. Dr. McFarland explained that the updates to the policy include more clarity for late arrivals and early departures, in addition to student accountability for ensuring their classwork/homework is completed for missed time and days.
 - b. Ms. Roper expressed a concern with the credit denial part not being moved into Policy 204, since Policy 204.1 is being retired.
 - c. Dr. Dalton said she had never seen a credit denial policy and indicated a magisterial judge could see that measure as punitive, if truancy were to reach that level.
 - d. Ms. Roper said many seniors are coming to school because they don't want to be denied the credit.
 - e. Dr. Dalton said there are other ways to look at it, with the option for benchmark attendance in order to walk at graduation.
 - f. Dr. Moyer asked if the number of unexcused absences is still three before it can go before a magistrate.
 - g. Dr. Dalton noted that the law has changed, and it is now six unexcused absences, which must then go through a conference and planning process with the family first.
 - h. Ms. Pratt asked about the language used for "late arrivals can accumulate and may be unexcused absences."
 - i. Dr. Dalton indicated they need more flexibility in the language to represent all students, noting the word "shall" would have the district in a bind.
 - j. Dr. Moyer said he preferred "may" instead of "shall" to give school officials discretion.
 - k. Ms. Saltzer recommended that administrators look at the administrative regulations last updated in 2019 that go with this policy and ensure the language is cohesive.
2. Policy 204.1- Credit Denial – Retire
 - a. Ms. Roper asked for further clarification on the ability to deny walking at graduation for seniors who do not meet a benchmark attendance requirement, if that were to be created.
 - b. Dr. Dalton said it could be included with a graduation policy or the student handbook.

- c. Dr. McFarland noted those types of stipulations could be addressed in the high school and middle school handbooks.
- 3. Policy 251- Students Experiencing Homelessness, in Foster Care, and/or Experiencing Educational Instability (Last revised on Nov. 4, 2024)
 - a. Ms. Harner explained that the Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA) reviewed the policy in 2023 to adjust legal citations and gave the district the option to pick different areas for authority, noting the specific people were never selected at that time. In November 2024, those individuals were selected, and the policy was approved by the board, according to Ms. Harner.
 - b. Ms. Harner said there were no changes to the policy, but they wanted to make the committee aware that it is in place.
 - c. Ms. Saltzer said there are eight policy references that do not exist for the district.
 - d. Ms. Harner clarified those policies may not be our district's, but they exist for PSBA.
 - e. Dr. Dalton noted that the district is currently going through a policy review process to ensure policies cited exist for the district going forward.
- 4. 2026-2027 Calendar Update
 - a. Dr. McFarland shared that he and Superintendent Dr. Matzner recently met with a group of stakeholders for the beginning stages of next year's calendar creation and implementation. He also noted the district is aware of local America250 events throughout Gettysburg and is planning ahead.

Board Action:

All of the policies will be listed as information items at an upcoming Board meeting.