

Gettysburg Area School District
Policy Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2026

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

Board members Present: Al Moyer, Kathleen Pratt, and Justine Sieg

Administrators Present: Jeffrey Matzner, Matthew McFarland, and Vanessa Sanders

Guests Present: Dr. Leigh Dalton, Julieta Booz, and Richard Franki (Gettysburg Times)

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

1. Policy 100 – Comprehensive Planning (New)
 - a. Dr. Dalton indicated this policy, recommended by the Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA), is a reiteration of what's in law. She also noted the policy states what the district is already doing through its comprehensive plan.
 - b. Dr. Matzner said the current comprehensive plan was done for 2025-2028.
 - c. Dr. Moyer asked if the plans need to be revised every three years.
 - d. Dr. Dalton said the district is complying with the three-year revisit of a six-year requirement.
 - e. Ms. Pratt asked if gifted education is submitted with the plan or separately.
 - f. Dr. Matzner clarified that it does get submitted as part of the plan.
2. Policy 113.3 – Discipline of Students with Disabilities (New)
 - a. Dr. Moyer asked about the numbering of the policies, and why this policy is not in the 200 category since it is focused on students.
 - b. Dr. Dalton indicated that special education is a federal program, which is why it falls in the 100 category.
3. Policy 113.4 – Confidentiality of Special Education Student Information (New)
 - a. Dr. Dalton shared this policy includes additional safeguards in protecting personally identifiable information of students with disabilities.
4. Policy 146 – Student Services (New)
 - a. Dr. Dalton noted that this policy shows the services the district is offering like the comprehensive planning policy. She also shared that it's a reflection of what's in law.
 - b. Ms. Pratt asked if certain points were to parallel one another because she was having difficulty in drawing a connection.
 - c. Dr. Dalton said she did not believe that section was meant to be a parallel, and the goal of the policy is to note the services.
5. 2026-2027 GASD District Calendar Draft
 - a. Dr. Matzner shared the changes to the 2026-2027 calendar, noting the removal of trade days and extended professional days for teachers and the proposal of a Summer Academy. The Summer Academy would include two days at the beginning of the school

year and two days at the end of the school year with the requirement that teachers work on two of the four days.

- b. Dr. Matzner also noted November 18 and 19 are marked as America250 celebration dates, and he has been told by event organizers that 90% of roads in Gettysburg Borough will be closed. He is exploring options on whether to have those as remote learning days as well as how to get students involved in the community events taking place.
- c. With the changes in school code, Dr. Matzner indicated they are now required to meet a certain number of days or hours for students. This calendar includes 175 student days, meeting the required 170 days and giving the district flexibility with the remainder for any possible inclement weather days.
- d. Ms. Roper said she had two requests from teachers regarding the calendar. The first request was to have a two-hour delay added on the first Monday after winter break, which is January 4, to help them get students and staff better acclimated to their return to school. The second was a clarification on whether the last day of school is a half day or full day.
- e. Dr. Matzner noted there are not any half days on the calendar for 2026-2027.
- f. Dr. McFarland shared that they took into account information from parents on the challenges of two-hour delays and half days, so they were working to make the school calendar more manageable for families.
- g. Dr. Matzner said he did not see an advantage to bringing in students for a two-hour delay after the winter break.

Board Action:

All of the policies and the 2026-2027 GASD District Calendar draft will be listed as information items at an upcoming Board meeting.