The April 8 Policy and Academics Committee meeting was called to order at 7.01 p.m. by Amanda Orzolek.

School Board members present were Sam Bidleman and Dawn Kehs Errifaiy, along with most members of the administrative team.

Under New Business, three topics were listed on the agenda.

1. Device Protection Plan
2. Learning Management System (LMS)
3. PSSA Testing

1. Device Protection Plan

Director of Technology and Innovation Christine Matash highlighted a five-page Device Acceptable Use – Administrative Regulation proposal for the Bloomsburg Area School District, focusing on three sections: District-Issued Devices, Use of Devices at School and Home, and an Optional Device Protection Plan.

Mrs. Matash covered several specific details in each section, answered questions, and clarified concerns about the care of devices (a term used to include all forms of tech hardware), including guidelines for damage, loss, or theft, school and take-home use, consequences of such incidents, and other topics.

Her presentation on the proposed Optional Device Protection Plan focused on students in grades 6-12, as they would be permitted to take District-issued devices home and therefore eligible to participate in the optional Plan offered by the BASD. If enrolled in the Plan, coverage would include accidental damage, one-time replacement of a device damaged beyond repair, and loss or theft. Intentional damage or damage resulting from negligence would not be covered, even if the student is enrolled in the Plan. District representatives would determine whether a device qualified for repair or replacement.

Mrs. Matash then presented slides that outlined the details of the Protection Plan, including limits on accidental damage, loss, or theft, and options for families who chose not to participate in the District Plan. A final note was made about students in grades K-5 who would not be in the Plan, as their devices would remain primarily in school. She noted that elementary classroom teachers could make limited exceptions when a project or assignment requires completion outside of the school day.

Discussion about the Protection Plan included topics such as progressive disciplinary consequences for improper device use, a proposed $10 fee for device insurance, cost options for large families, Plan coverage that excludes cords, chargers, cases, and

intentional or negligence-related damage, student use of loaner devices, and parent insurance options.

2. Learning Management System (LMS)
Mrs. Matash introduced a draft proposal to purchase and adopt the Canvas Instructure Learning Platform as a single, consistent district LMS, with a recurring cost of $23,456.00 beginning with the 2026-2027 school year. Her presentation outlined the benefits of the Canvas option, including a link to Sapphire and support for all forms of instruction. Tech support for faculty would be provided in a phased approach, with completion expected by the end of the 2027 school year. Discussion included possible teacher pushback to converting to the Canvas application, how teachers' existing software could be migrated to the Canvas app, and professional development-style offerings to help teachers use the upcoming summer for their classes.

3. PSSA Testing
Superintendent JJ Cleaver clarified statements he made at the March board meeting regarding the proctoring of the upcoming PSSA. He reviewed the PA Department of Education guidelines that address teacher-supervised monitoring of their own students, with and without a second professional in the room, a PDE recommendation but not a requirement. Bloomsburg Area will move ahead with a one-teacher supervision model with supervision in hallways for bathroom use.

Additional Input:
Board Member Amanda Orzolek introduced for consideration the Archery in Schools program, expressing interest in its potential adoption within the Bloomsburg Area School District. The program would incorporate archery into physical education curriculum, with the possibility of an after-school program. Ms. Orzolek noted that grant funding opportunities are available, making the program low-cost to the district, and highlighted reported benefits including improved student academic performance and attendance. The Board was asked to consider exploring the program further.