



POLICY/COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

June 1, 2026

Virtual Meeting - 3:30 p.m.

Committee Members: Ellen DePinto, Chair
Pamela Cassidy, Beth Fiore, Linda Rad

Administrative Staff: Dr. Jonathan Hart, Superintendent of Schools
Jason Bohm, SBA/Board Secretary

Minutes

1. **Policy 2535 Discussion:** The committee discussed whether or not the committee would like to further revise the language prior to meeting with the attorney next week. One committee member provided language she felt would better serve the policy. It was suggested that “sensitive topics” be replaced with “advanced materials” and to remove the last sentence from the regulation that states “The Panel’s review process may include presentation of the material to the Ed/Tech Committee of the Board of Education for further review”. The committee member expressed concern that the regulation violates the law because she feels it is saying the librarian will be commanded to bring any book with sensitive content to the review panel. A committee member shared that she disagreed with changing “sensitive topics” to “advanced materials” because “sensitive topics” is consistent with district language and mentioned that it is used in a letter sent home to district parents in September alerting them that there are books in the library as well as classroom libraries that address serious or sensitive topics that they may wish to discuss at home. One committee member offered that she would be open to bringing over the language from the policy into the regulation to clarify that it is not every book with sensitive topics and only books where the educational value may be outweighed by adverse content. In response to the suggestion that the review panel’s possible presentation to the Ed/Tech committee be removed from the regulation, one board member stated that historically the Ed/Tech committee used to review library books up until a few years ago and the regulation states that the librarian has the discretion to bring the books to the panel and the panel has the discretion to present it to the committee if they feel it is necessary. One committee member feels strongly that we should strictly follow Strauss Esmay’s policy and not spend any more money on this. As a result of the discussion, Dr. Hart will bring our suggestions to the attorney for input.
2. **Updated Policies From Strauss Audit**
 - a. **0175 - Contracts with Independent Consultants:** This policy is good as is and does not require any changes.

- b. **1110 - Organizational Chart:** Simple statement that the organizational chart is located in the Superintendent's office. The Personnel committee reviews this chart every year and keeps it up to date.
 - c. **3324 - Right of Privacy:** This policy is good to have. Dr. Hart highlighted how this policy speaks to our acceptable use policy when it comes to audio and video recording. Staff will be made aware of this policy to avoid any issue with social media etc.
 - d. **3340 - Grievance:** This policy speaks to teaching staff members that are not in the teacher's union agreement. This policy mirrors the contract and will work for those staff members. This brings the staff through different levels of grievance beginning with direct supervisor, then superintendent, then the board. Policy states Board decision is final.
 - e. **3410 - Compensation:** this policy will be helpful for certificated teaching staff that are not a part of the negotiated agreement. This policy explains how substitute teachers are hired. It covers how summer ESY teachers and speech therapists are paid. The committee recommended that we adjust the language that references the rate of pay for speech therapists should be reworded to mention that the rate is a minimum. This will avoid issues should that amount change. Dr. Hart will make that change.
 - f. **Policies Considered But Not Updated and Policies with Errors Corrected:**
 - i. 1642 - Earned Sick Leave Law: Does not apply to our district. It is for unaligned per diem non-regular employees. We do not need this policy. Our district maintains 1642.01-Sick Leave
 - ii. 2230 - Curriculum Guides was previously approved but not posted. It has now been posted.
 - iii. 2428.1 - Standards-Based Instructional Priorities: This policy is not needed and not mandated. It overlaps with several policies in the 2000 series that speak to the same topic.
 - iv. 3351 - Healthy Workplace Environment: After review of this policy Dr. Hart would like to add some language to 3281, as it would work more appropriately in that policy.
 - v. 3440 - Travel Expenses: 6471 was adopted to abolish 3440. This policy is abolished at this time.
3. **AI-Related Policies for Update:** During the last committee meeting a member suggested that prohibited use of AI be added to the handbook. Dr. Hart met with the leadership team and added language to the handbook. Policy 2361 and 5701 now mentions that we have an AI Handbook. During the review of policy 2361 a committee member mentioned that we need to address the part that mentions having a yearly public hearing on internet safety and making sure we add this to our agendas when the tech department gives their annual report to ensure we get community feedback.
4. **Strauss Esmay Alert 237:** We reviewed three of several policies from alert 237. These three policies are revised due to changes to the NJ code chapter 6A:8.
- a. **Policy 1230 - Superintendent's Duties (M) (Revised) -** Minor changes so the language is consistent with the code. Police Guide 1230 is mandated because a

Board-approved job description is an essential component for the required evaluation process.

- b. **Policy 2200 - Curriculum (M) (Revised)** Policy and Regulation Guides 2200 have been combined into a rewritten Policy Guide 2200. N.J.A.C. 6A:8-3.1 and Policy Guide 2200 describe a Board's responsibility for the design and delivery of curriculum and instruction needed to address the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS). Policy Guide 2200 is mandated because QSAC District Performance Review – Instruction and Program indicators require the adoption of a policy on curriculum.
 - c. **Policy 2411 - Career Education and Academic Counseling (M) (Revised)** Policy Guide 2411 is mandated as it includes the language required in the CEP Needs Assessment Section C. – Equity in Guidance Programs and Services. This guides what we offer to our eighth grade students when selecting their courses for high school.
- 5. **Strauss Esmay Alert 237 - Abolished Policies/Regulations:** 2200 and 2411 need to be abolished because they were fully re-written due to the code being updated.
 - 6. **Attorney Recommended Update:** Regulation 2418 - Section 504: Mandated regulation. Section 504 ensures that students with disabilities are not excluded from participation in school. It is about access to education through accommodation. The attorney reviewed our regulation and found the grievance procedure to be outdated. We need to update ours to reflect the federal law and have the 504 coordinator investigate the grievance and give their decision to the parent. However, if the parent disagrees it needs to go straight to due process. The Superintendent and Board cannot get involved in disputes of federal law.
 - 7. **Handbooks:** The committee recommends that the handbook be updated each year to reflect the correct member names. There was a brief discussion about adding committee meeting attendance processes to the committee handbook and referencing the bylaw. The handbooks will be distributed to board members in time for discussion at the retreat over the summer.
 - 8. **Policy Tracking Document:** The committee continues its work on the policy tracking document. We will each highlight the policies that require immediate attention based on our notes and the Strauss audit in our assigned sections and address those as priority at our next meeting.

Agenda items: Policies 0175, 1110, 3324, 3340, 3410 related to the Audit. Policies 2361, 5701 related to AI. Policies 1230, 2200, 2400 related to alert 237. Abolish policy/regulation 2200 and 2411 related to alert 237.

Next Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 15th at 3:30PM