



Eastern Lebanon County School District

180 ELCO Drive, Myerstown, PA 17067

June 8, 2026, DO Boardroom, 5:00 pm

Policy, Curriculum, and Personnel
Committee Minutes

POLICY COMMITTEE

Policy Committee Chair and Board President: **Rachel Moyer**,

Policy Committee Members: **Jack Kahl, Bonnie Kantner, Ray Ondrusek**

Megan Schaeffer, Jordan Weaver, Howard Kramer, and Joya Morrissey were also present.

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by Mrs. Moyer.

The following policies were discussed and will proceed to the first reading.

- Policy 229 – Student Fundraising
 - This policy clarifies that district-operated student activity groups may conduct small games of chance only with prior administrative approval, must comply with the Pennsylvania Small Games of Chance Act and submit any required licenses/permits to the business office in advance, and are limited to one such fundraiser per fiscal year, with the option for an administrative exception (e.g., if a class needs additional funds for prom).
- Policy 915 – PTO and Booster Organizations
 - This policy is being updated to spell out the process for booster clubs and PTOs to conduct small games of chance, requiring compliance with the Pennsylvania Small Games of Chance Act, that organizations obtain and maintain all necessary licenses/permits, submit approved licenses to the athletic director and business office before the fundraiser, and limit each organization to one small game of chance fundraiser per fiscal year to avoid overlap and protect the district.

Discussion: Policy 253 – Student Physical Privacy in School Facilities

- This policy revision, which had previously passed first but not second reading, addresses student fiscal privacy and use of school facilities, and is being held pending an anticipated U.S. Supreme Court ruling; the committee discussed timing options for bringing it back (tentative June agenda with withdrawal if needed, or delaying action to August/September) to ensure alignment with the Court's decision and solicitor guidance.
- If SCOTUS issues a clear ruling that aligns with the draft of Policy 253 before the June board meeting, Policy 253 will be placed on the June board agenda for a first reading.
- If SCOTUS does not issue a ruling before the June board meeting
 - Policy 253 will be removed from the June agenda, and the committee will then revisit the policy later, with options including:
 - An August committee discussion, followed by first reading in August and second reading in September; or
 - Potentially calling a special July committee/board meeting if the board later decides that timing is important
- If the SCOTUS ruling is mixed, only partially aligned with revisions, or creates questions about how Policy 253 should be applied
 - Even if a ruling is issued before June, if it is "half and half" or not clearly aligned with the current draft, the policy will still be pulled from the June agenda and not advanced at that meeting.
 - The district will wait for clarity, including updated legal guidance from the solicitor, before revising or moving the policy forward.
- The Committee expressed concerns about the lack of clear guidance for student handbooks before the start of the school year.

Public Comment:

Megan Schaeffer

- Asked for confirmation that Megan Handchak will communicate the new small games of chance procedures not only to booster clubs but also to the PTOs, to ensure all groups receive the same information
- Later, the board urged to wait until August to move forward with Policy 253, even if the Supreme Court rules in June, citing concerns about incomplete clarity, the lack of a July meeting, and the risk of unnecessarily riling up portions of the community if the item is placed on and then pulled from the June agenda.

Jordan Weaver

- Expressed interest and hope about the upcoming Supreme Court decision, but stated a preference not to call a special July meeting, worrying that it could be perceived as the board trying to “sneak something” through, and instead favored handling Policy 253 in August.

Next Policy Meeting:

- August 3, 2026

The meeting adjourned at 5:17 pm.

Future Policy Committee Meetings:

September 8, 2026

October 5, 2026

November 2, 2026

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

Curriculum Committee Chair: **Bonnie Kantner**

Curriculum Committee Members: **Joya Morrissey, Jordan Weaver**

Board President, **Rachel Moyer**

Howard Kramer, Bonnie Kantner, Megan Schaeffer, and Jack Kahl were also present.

Call to Order and Welcome

- Mrs. Kantner called the meeting to order at 5:20 pm.

Discussion Items

- Transition for Initiatives
 - Dr. Davis provided an overview of initiatives and accomplishments from the last nine years led by Mrs. Vicente and Dr. Davis.
 - Over the last nine years, the district implemented a broad set of curriculum and program initiatives across K–12, including updated core literacy and math programs (structured literacy/CKLA, phonics, aligned math to Common Core), expanded STEM offerings (PA Smart grant, K–5 STEM specials, new high school STEM wing and barn), and strengthened data systems (district-wide benchmarking, data teams, continuous improvement plans). The team also advanced college and career readiness (more AP/dual enrollment, Future Ready work, business

partnerships), expanded learning options and early learning supports (virtual academy, after-school tutoring, summer school, full-day kindergarten, pre-K transitions), and made parallel improvements in special education, student supports, professional learning, technology integration, and community engagement.

- Data Overview

- Dr. Davis provided an overview of PSSA, Keystone, and other benchmarks.
- Mathematics: Keystone Algebra scores remain consistently above the state average, and PSSA math scores in grades 3–8 are trending upward, supported by interventions such as CRA training, math coaching, and K–2 fact-fluency programs, which show especially strong gains in the early grades.
- Science: Keystone Biology and PSSA science data are mixed and difficult to compare across years due to pandemic disruptions and changes in standards/grade levels. However, grade 8 PSSA science shows improvement while grade 4 remains relatively flat.
- ELA & Reading: Keystone Literature scores are above the state average but have been relatively flat over time, whereas K–2 DIBELS data show significant growth, particularly in kindergarten and grade 1, aligning with full-day kindergarten and CKLA implementation.
- Instructional Impact: A survey was conducted with CKLA teachers to solicit feedback and additional metrics indicating strong gains in foundational skills, reading independence, writing volume/quality, and vocabulary.
- CKLA implementation has also led to a marked reduction in student screen time during ELA instruction, shifting the 90-minute reading block from heavier iPad use to predominantly direct, teacher-led whole-group instruction. Before CKLA, a substantial portion of teachers reported that students used iPads for 15–60 minutes per day in that block; after implementation, roughly two-thirds now report less than 15 minutes of daily iPad use. Similar reductions occurred during the 30-minute WIN/intervention block, with most students now spending under 10 minutes on devices, reflecting a deliberate move toward more paper-based tasks, discussion, and explicit literacy instruction.

Public Comment:

Jack Kahl

- During public comment, Mr. Kahl reported positive feedback from intermediate and middle school families about CKLA, noting that parents and students feel it has increased expectations for reading and comprehension and that the data “shows it’s working.”

Megan Schaeffer

- Mrs. Schaeffer spoke as a parent of a fifth grader and strongly endorsed CKLA’s impact on her child’s true reading ability and writing quality, highlighted the noticeable reduction in iPad use in favor of paper-based work, and shared that challenging texts (e.g., Don Quixote, specific domains) pushed students’ thinking in productive ways.

Ray Ondrusek

- Mr. Ondrusek briefly asked why phonics had historically fallen out of favor, prompting a brief acknowledgment that the current structured literacy approach is returning to more explicit, phonics-based instruction.

Next Curriculum Committee Meeting: August 3, 2026

Adjournment: Mrs. Kantner adjourned the meeting at 6:18 pm.

Future Curriculum Committee Meetings:

September 8, 2026

October 5, 2026

November 2, 2026

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Personnel Committee Chair: **Jack Kahl**

Personnel Committee Members: **Bonnie Kantner, Joya Morrissey, Jordan Weaver**
Board President, **Rachel Moyer**

Megan Schaeffer, Ray Ondrusek, and Howard Kramer were also present.

Mr. Kahl called the meeting to order at 6:19 pm.

Discussion Items

The Committee reviewed a draft agenda for the June 22 meeting, which reflects actions as of the Committee meeting date. There will likely be additional items included in the lead-up to the voting Board meeting.

- New hires:
 - The committee discussed new hires and role changes, including filling a skilled maintenance position, advancing a long-time food service worker into a cafeteria manager role, and continuing the practice of placing high school seniors as paraprofessionals through a cooperative learning experience. In addition, the administration outlined administrative and professional transfers to realign special education, library, and middle-level staffing with the previously approved staffing plan.
- Resignations:
 - During the personnel committee meeting, the administration reviewed several staff resignations across custodial, paraprofessional, and teaching positions, including adjustments to the previously approved final date for one employee.
- Mrs. Vicente presented a new nursing internship partnership with a university, emphasizing supervision, safeguards, and the potential pipeline for future hires.

Public Comment: None

Next Personnel Committee Meeting:

- August 3, 2026

Adjournment: Mr. Kahl adjourned the meeting at 6:26 pm.

Please note that the Personnel Committee will move into an Executive Session to discuss confidential Personnel matters per Policy 006.

Future Personnel Committee Meetings:

September 8, 2026
October 5, 2026
November 2, 2026