



Board of School Directors Committee Meetings Minutes

Wednesday, May 13, 2026

Generated by Renai Cardillo on Thursday, June 4, 2026

Members present: Michael Barnacz, Rosemary Buetikofer, William Brong, Corinne DeGeiso, William Formica, Ken Keith, William Formica, Andrew Souchet, Kimberly Wheeler, and Alexandra Wisser.

Others present: Christopher Hey, Katie Kennedy-Reilly, Dennis Stanton, Michael Taylor, and Megan Zweiback

Mr. Keith called the meetings to order at 6:30 P.M.

Mr. Keith announced the three meetings scheduled this evening; Policy Committee, Operations Committee and Finance Committee.

1. Policy Committee

Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Hey stated that there were eight policies to be reviewed this evening. He also noted that High School Athletic Director, Mr. Stanton was in attendance to answer questions regarding the policy relating to Interscholastic Athletics as well as the discussion scheduled regarding Facility Rentals.

1.1 First Reading of Policy 100 - Comprehensive Planning -

This policy revises and renames existing Policy 100 - Strategic Planning per PSBA recommendation. Language regarding strategic plan was removed and replaced with language on comprehensive planning in accordance with current Chapter 4 regulations and the state's comprehensive planning process. Sections were added on required plans for professional education, induction, student services, special education, gifted education, in accordance with current District practice and applicable law and regulations

1.2 First Reading of Policy 101 - Mission Statement -

This policy replaces and renames existing Policy 101 - Philosophy of Education, last revised in 1998, per PSBA recommendation. The new policy incorporates the District's current mission statement and shared values described in its Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Keith suggested comments and questions on the first two policies reviewed.

Board members asked questions and made comments. Director of Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment, and Technology, Dr. Kennedy-Reilly added comments of clarification on the Comprehensive Plan.

Director of Pupil Services, Ms. Zweiback, read the following policy summaries aloud:

1.3 First Reading of Policy 112 - Guidance Counseling -

Policy 112 Guidance Counseling outlines the standards and requirements for Guidance Counseling within the school district. It establishes counseling as a core component of the instructional program rather than a peripheral service.

Revisions to Policy 112 include added/updated language to provide further clarity; added recommended guidelines listing considerations regarding the implementation and maintenance of a guidance counseling program; and added recommended language on coordinating with services provided by locally available social and human services agencies.

1.4 First Reading of Policy 113 - Special Education -

Policy 113 defines the district's responsibilities regarding Special Education. Its primary purpose is to ensure that students with disabilities receive a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE), as mandated by the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and state regulations (Chapter 14).

Revisions to Policy 113 - Special Education have been made in order to comply with revised comprehensive planning process and Chapter 4 requirements.

This policy has been revised in consideration of monitoring requirements/recommendations to broadly address the identification, evaluation and provision of educational programs and services for students with disabilities and to ensure that qualified students receive the necessary services and accommodations without discrimination in accordance with requirements of state and federal laws and regulations. Revisions include:

- Added recommended language under Authority regarding development and submission of special education plan to Dept. of Education every three years, as required by law and regulations.
- Added language regarding significant disproportionality in accordance with state regulations.
- Added sections on Fiscal and Program Compliance, Child Find/Outreach, Screening, Confidentiality, and the Recording of Meetings, in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), its implementing regulations, and applicable state regulations.

1.5 First Reading of Policy 113.3 - Screening and Evaluation for Students with Disabilities -

This policy replaces and renames existing Policy 113.3 - Special Education Evaluations and Independent Educational Evaluations at Public Expense, per PSBA recommendation. The new policy title is "Screening and Evaluation for Students with Disabilities."

The primary goal of Policy 113.3 is to establish the procedures and criteria for parents or guardians to request an evaluation of their child conducted by a qualified examiner who is not employed by the school district, as governed by the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Pennsylvania's Chapter 14 regulations.

Revisions to Policy 113.3 include a new title, updated language to encompass monitoring requirements, recommendations to address district responsibilities for screening and evaluating students to determine the need for special education services and programs, and the rights of parents to request an independent educational evaluation for their child in accordance with state and federal laws and regulations. Language was added to include Director of Pupil Service maintaining a list of qualified independent evaluators and providing the list to parents/guardians who request it.

1.6 First Reading of Policy 114 - Gifted Education -

Policy 114 defines the district's responsibilities in identifying gifted children in need of specially designed instruction. The policy also describes the requirements of the district's gifted programming, and the Gifted Plan completed every six years.

Revisions to Policy 114 - Gifted education include replacing most of district's current policy with PSBA's policy guide:

- Added gifted education plan language to policy, which complies with Chapter 4 requirements and ties into the comprehensive planning process addressed in draft policy 100.
- Added language regarding the Permission to Evaluate form being made available to parents/guardians.
- Updated language on caseloads and class size to reflect current Chapter 16 regulations.

Board members asked questions about the four policies read aloud and Ms. Zweiback responded.

1.7 First Reading of Policy 122 - Extracurricular Activities -

Policy 122 -Extracurricular Activities establishes the framework for extracurricular activities, defining them as board-sanctioned programs conducted outside the regular school day that do not provide graduation credit. The policy emphasizes that these activities—which include athletics, clubs, and student government, are vital for a well-rounded education and must be made equally available to all students. The policy permits the implementation of activity fees provided that no student is excluded due to an inability to pay.

Revisions to Policy 122 - Extracurricular Activities replace most of current district policy:

- Replaced term "co-curricular" with "extracurricular" to better reflect the terminology used in current law and regulations.
- Added definition of "athletic activity" for clarity -- definition reflects School Code.
- Added a recommended definition of curriculum-related student group for clarity.
- Added recommended language addressing the Board's authority to determine eligibility standards for student participation in extracurricular activities, consistent with School Code and state regulations.
- Added a list of eligibility standards for students participating in extracurricular activities with recommended language to establish consistent standards for eligibility for all students - please review and revise as necessary.

- Added Off-Campus Activities section to clarify when this policy applies to student conduct occurring off campus, with a general statement directing specific instances back to policy 218, which contains language that aligns with the B.L. v. Mahanoy federal Supreme Court decision.
- Added language regarding required forms pertinent to the requirements of the Safety in Youth Sports Act (concussion management) and Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention Act

1.8 First Reading of Policy 123 - Interscholastic Athletics -

Policy 123 - Interscholastic Athletics establishes the framework for governing school-sponsored sports programs, emphasizing that participation is a privilege intended to foster physical, mental, and social growth. The policy mandates that programs comply with **Title IX** and **PIAA (Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association)** regulations to ensure equitable opportunities and fair competition. It outlines the Board's responsibility for overseeing program development, budget approval, and the safety of student-athletes, including requirements for physical examinations and insurance coverage. Furthermore, it sets clear expectations for student eligibility based on academic standing, residency, and behavioral conduct, while reinforcing the district's authority to discipline or exclude students who fail to uphold the program's standards of sportsmanship and integrity.

Revisions to Policy 123 - Interscholastic Athletics include -

- Expanded the list of eligibility standards for students participating in interscholastic athletics with recommended language to establish consistent standards for eligibility for all students.
- Added Off-Campus Activities section to clarify when this policy applies to student conduct occurring off campus.
- Added language regarding information about electrocardiogram testing being included on the Sudden Cardiac Arrest Symptoms and Warning Signs Information Sheet in accordance with law.
- Added language regarding interscholastic athletic opportunities disclosure requirements, in compliance with School Code.

Board members asked questions and made comments. Ms. Zweiback responded to the questions and High School Athletic Director, Mr. Stanton spoke to student-athlete expectations and standards. Dr. Hey added that the student handbook outlines and supports disciplinary and attendance protocols.

Ms. Wheeler thanked Dr. Varano and Mr. Stanton for adding girls wrestling and flag football.

2. Operations Committee

2.1 Facility Rentals

Dr. Hey called Operations Committee to order at 7:25 P.M.

Dr. Hey stated that the administration is recommending an update to the district's facilities' use procedures and rental fees. Preference will continue to be provided to community groups which support youth development in the community. Fees collected serve to offset the costs of maintenance and upkeep of district facilities.

Discussions occurred surrounding the facilities use per hour costs, required insurances and stipulations for use.

A member of the audience asked if other facilities, in addition to athletic spaces, are included in the fee structure and Dr. Hey responded other areas are included.

The Operations Committee adjourned at 7:54 P.M.

3. Finance Committee

3.1 2026-2027 Special Education Shared Service Plan with MCIU

Mrs. Zweiback reviewed the 2026-2027 Intergovernmental Agreement for Shared Student Services between the Souderton Area School District and the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit. Mrs. Zweiback noted that this is an annual plan for contracted services provided to our students in-district and students placed in programs operated by the M.C.I.U. Mrs. Zweiback cited the example of hearing support to students as well as programming services to some severely impacted special education students.

Board members asked questions about the agreement.

3.2 Lakeside & Vantage Contracts

Ms. Zweiback explained the proposed contracts with Lakeside Youth Service that include a three-year renewal for Souderton Vantage Academy and a 1-year renewal for Lakeside School and In-School Counselors. The Souderton

Vantage Academy contract, provides for 45 slots. The contract for Lakeside school provides for 13 slots at Lakeside School, and 6 Lakeside In-School Counselors. This contract includes an decrease in slots at Lakeside School and In-School Counselors. Ms. Zweiback stated that the school district will continue to work collaboratively with Lakeside Youth Service to provide the students of the Souderton Area School District with quality in-school mental health and counseling support as well as therapeutic options for education.

Board members asked questions and received responses from Mrs. Zweiback regarding the placement and enrollment of students into the Lakeside program.

3.3 2026-2027 Budget Update

Mr. Taylor announced the adoption of the proposed final budget following the completion of this meeting.

Mr. Taylor reviewed a presentation which included the following Budget Calendar:

Date	Event	Description
5/13/2026	Finance Committee Meeting	Budget Update
5/13/2026	Special Board Meeting	Approve Final Proposed Budget
6/10/2026	Finance Committee Meeting	Present Final Budget
6/18/2026	Final Budget	Approve Final Budget

Mr. Taylor stated that the Property Tax Rebate would be a Board decision at the time of the budget approval in June.

Mr. Taylor presented a Budget Update and stated that work will continue on the refinement of expenditures and revenues until the final budget presentation.

Board members asked questions about the budget presentation and community members added comments on the budget and fund balance.

Mr. Keith adjourned the Board Committee meetings at 9:16 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,



Michael Taylor, C.P.A.
Director of Business Affairs / Board Secretary