

Bloomsburg Area School District

Policy & Academic Affairs Committee

Detailed Meeting Minutes

Meeting of August 12, 2026 | 6:00 p.m. to 7:43 p.m.

Committee members present	Stephanie Andreacci (Chairperson), Sam Bidleman, Dawn Kehs Errifaiy, Amanda Orzolek
Also present (in person)	Amy Melchiorre, Christine Matash, Wendy Arnold, Jonathan “JJ” Cleaver
Also present (via Zoom)	Cara Dunn, Guy Moses, Mary Rose Latorre, Andrea Landis, Michelle Prybyla
Location	Enhanced Learning Center (ELC), Bloomsburg Area Secondary Complex, and Zoom
Public	No one from the public was present

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call. There were no requests for public comment on agenda items.

1. Policies Currently Under Review: 249 and 824

Policy 824: Maintaining Professional Adult and Student Boundaries

The committee reviewed the draft and focused on the requirement that “all adults” subject to the policy annually acknowledge it in writing. Members felt that scope is impractical to manage, given how many people it would reach (coaches, volunteers, drivers, and contractors). The committee asked for the solicitor to narrow the language to “board-approved individuals,” fold the acknowledgment into existing onboarding and clearance paperwork rather than a separate annual process, add an appropriate-use provision for legitimate contact (such as a chaperone sharing a number for check-ins on a trip), and confirm the policy supports enforcement. Members also discussed routing electronic communication with students through district-approved platforms where available.

Policy 249: Bullying / Cyberbullying

Because PSBA has not yet released its updated model, Superintendent JJ Cleaver reviewed the 2026–27 School Code to identify required elements not yet reflected in the draft:

- Designate the staff member who receives reports, and post/review the policy in each building (within 90 days of adoption and annually).
- Submit an annual report to PDE describing prevention, intervention, and education efforts.
- Add a definition for artificial-intelligence-generated or -modified media.
- Address off-campus conduct that affects the school environment, including coordination with the municipality where an incident occurs.

Members discussed the new requirement to notify parents/guardians “after a determination is made” and asked JJ to clarify with the solicitor how best to address it, so it does not unintentionally delay timely parent contact. The committee is awaiting PSBA guidance before finalizing language. Members also noted the 2026–27 School Code includes several immediate-effect changes, among them a new option for districts to adopt later start times through a public process and PDE reporting, which the committee will take up at a future meeting.

2. New Policy for Metal Detectors

The units have been ordered (delivery date pending), and parent notification has already gone out through Parent Square. The solicitor provided a memo and a model policy (Carlisle Area SD Policy 226); much of the content overlaps the district's existing search policy (Policy 226). The committee identified a number of refinements to request from the solicitor, and JJ will gain further insight from him, including whether a formal policy is needed or whether a procedure alone is sufficient.

The committee's direction is to update the student handbooks and screening procedures, and to obtain the solicitor's insight on the proper language. The district will also reach out to its other solicitor for examples of other local districts' policies for additional guidance. Screening will begin once staff are trained and families and students are informed, with principals reviewing the process with students at the start of the year.

3. Parent Square Update

The rollout is on track. Families are notified by email or phone even if they have not registered, and buildings are updating the few remaining contacts. Staff training is upcoming, with coaches and PTOs included and open-house tables at each building. A district support address (support@bloomsd.org) handles help questions, and middle- and high-school students will receive help-desk access and Student Square shortly after the start of school. Guest accounts for the general community are not yet enabled. Members noted that other school board directors who do not have children across all buildings, or in the district at all, would like appropriate access to district-wide communications.

4. Field Trips

Administration proposed a district-funded, curriculum-aligned field-trip program by grade level, with the district covering transportation and admission so the cost no longer falls on individual PTOs and opportunities are consistent across buildings. The proposed trips are Grade 3 to Harrisburg, Grade 4 to Gettysburg, Grade 5 to Philadelphia / Franklin Institute, Grade 6 to the Baltimore Zoo, Grade 7 to the PA Renaissance Faire, and Grade 8 to Washington, D.C., each tied to science or social-studies curriculum. Staff compensation for extended-day trips is currently being discussed with the teachers' association. Grade levels would travel together to reduce cost; non-curriculum trips remain subject to building-administrator approval. More broadly, the committee discussed how this conversation is sparking the idea of possibly changing the structure of the parent co-ops, which will be taken up at a future meeting.

5. School Board Presentations

The committee agreed to move to monthly rotating principal presentations, using visuals and student participation (for example, showcasing STEM work) rather than reading submitted reports, which will still be provided in writing. Board members asked that reports include student and benchmark data with context, such as IXL, CDTs, and Acadience/DIBELS at K-5, so the board can track progress through the year rather than only at year-end. AV improvements for the meeting room were also discussed.

6. Backpacks in the Middle School

Once screening begins, middle-school students will continue to store backpacks in lockers, with iPad bags available as an option, given classroom space and student movement.

Open comment: None.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m. on a motion by A. Orzolek, seconded by D. Kehs Errifaiy.