Bloomsburg Area School District

Policy & Academic Affairs Committee

Detailed Meeting Minutes

Meeting of October 14, 2026 | 6:04 p.m. to 7:41 p.m.

Committee members present	Stephanie Andreacci (Chairperson), Dawn Kehs Errifaiy, Amanda Orzolek, Benjamin Simmons
Also present	Jonathan "JJ" Cleaver, Amy Melchiorre, Christine Matash, Wendy Arnold, Guy Moses, Cara Dunn, Andrea Landis, Norm Fedder
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 6:04 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call. There were no requests for public comment on agenda items.

1. Metal Detector Procedures

Administration demonstrated the walk-through units using common student items such as binders, water bottles, iPads, and backpacks, and explained how alerts are handled. Every student will be screened each day, either through the walk-through units or by handheld wand. Wand screening will be used for students who cannot walk through, and for students with medical devices; those students are not exempt from screening but are screened in a way that does not affect their device. When an alert occurs, the item is identified and the bag is checked. Anything found that does not belong in school is handled under the district's existing search and seizure procedures, with administrators conducting searches and school security taking possession of any item.

The committee's direction remains procedures first, with policy to be addressed once procedures are in place. Board members asked that the student handbooks be updated to reflect the screening expectation.

Board members suggested family communications acknowledge that items may be found in the first weeks, so parents are not alarmed. Arrival is expected to run slower for the first few days, and the procedures account for students who arrive early for clubs or workouts. Possible future use of the portable units at athletic events was discussed, with no decision made.

2. eBike/Motorcycle Policy: 223

Administration will present a revised Policy 223 for first reading at the October 19 board meeting, updating the language to allow licensed drivers to bring motorcycles and e-bikes on school property. An eligible student rider could be issued a parking pass the same way as a vehicle.

3. Algebra and Advanced Classes at MS Criteria

The district is formalizing and expanding its advanced course offerings at the middle school, building on the Algebra I course currently offered in eighth grade. Amy shared a sample points-based placement rubric from another district that weighs PSSA results, class grades, CDTs, projections, and teacher recommendation. The district will build its own version with the math department, the middle and high school principals, and the math and ELA department heads, possibly adding an algebra aptitude measure, and will define what advanced classes do differently. It will be in place for the 2027–28 school year, and Amy will email the sample to board members.

The goal is one more rigorous section in ELA and in math, and longer term, offering Algebra I in seventh grade and Algebra II in eighth grade, as most area districts do. Scheduling will be a challenge, and those students still take the grade-level PSSA as well as the Keystone exam, so grade-level content must still be covered. Board members asked that the new criteria be tested against current advanced sections to see the effect on class sizes, so remaining sections do not become too large; administration noted placement should follow student need, which may mean a small section or a high school course. Spanish for eighth graders will continue as long as staffing allows.

4. Payment Scale for Damaged, Lost, or Stolen iPads for Uninsured Students

Christine proposed changing the device acceptable use administrative regulation so uninsured students pay a flat fee rather than the cost of repair. Insured students ($20) continue to receive their first two repairs free and pay $25 after that. Her initial proposal was $50 for an uninsured first incident and $25 for each one after. Board members felt that amount is too close to the cost of insurance to encourage families to buy it, given a replacement cost of about $300. The committee's consensus was $100 for the first incident and $50 for each additional incident, with discretion for families facing financial hardship. As an administrative regulation it does not require a board vote. Christine will send the revised regulation. Families have already been notified of the option to purchase insurance.

5. Canvas Parent Communication

Canvas is rolling out for parents, who will now be able to view their child's courses, assignments, and teacher updates. Christine will email the committee the message going to parents explaining that Canvas will look different by level while teachers learn the platform, and that Sapphire remains the source of final grades.

6. Gifted Program

Board members asked whether the district has a gifted curriculum. Administration explained there is no set curriculum; gifted instruction is guided by each student's GIEP, is project-based, and is separate from regular classroom instruction. Middle school gifted students now choose their projects, which has increased participation.

Board members raised concerns about students spending WIN (What I Need) time on repetitive IXL work, asked how administration will monitor implementation across classrooms, and asked whether parents will be able to see WIN activity. Administration explained that enrichment for advanced students who are not identified as gifted happens during WIN, when teachers use benchmark data to group students for either intervention or enrichment. Teachers have been directed that WIN is not a study hall or IXL-only time, principals are conducting walkthroughs, team meetings follow a structured data agenda, and IU coaches are supporting the work. A single Canvas classroom for middle school WIN is planned for second semester, and the committee agreed how WIN is communicated to parents through Canvas needs a larger conversation at a future meeting.

Open comment: None.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m. on a motion by A. Orzolek, seconded by D. Kehs Errifaiy.