

SPRING-FORD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2019

7:30 p.m. in the District Office Conference Room

DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

Spring-Ford Area School District strives to be educationally relevant, focused on achievement and growth, and have a priority on people so that students are fully prepared to positively contribute to their society.

CALL TO ORDER

IN ATTENDANCE:

- Board Members – Mark Dehnert, Colleen Zasowski (Committee Chair)
- District Representatives – Chief David Boyer, Bob Rizzo
- Community Members – Will Cromley, Wendy Earle, Tom McMonigle

ANNOUNCEMENTS

I. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

II. MINUTES - From September 9, 2019 Minutes approved

III. OLD BUSINESS

- Administration recommended suspending discussions about policies 705, 705.1, 705.2, and 805 until a reorganization is discussed and vetted. Safety policies pertaining to property and facilities may better reside in the 700s section while safety policies involving school police and procedures may be better in the 800s section. Further discussion in all policies except 705.2 are suspended until a reorganization is discussed and approved.
- A. Policy 705.2 – School Police Incidents (New Policy) – Policy reviewed and significant changes made to the policy. Next steps include sending the policy to the solicitor for review. Specifically, a greater understanding of the Media section. Bob will search for a policy or protocol already in existence with respect to talking to the media. Committee will review the policy again in November.
- B. Policy 830 – Reporting Use of Force (New Policy) – Policy reviewed and minor changes made to the policy. Specifically, the language in Policy 830 was adjusted to be consistent with Policy 834. Committee will review the policy again in November.
- C. Policy 834 – Use of Force (New Policy) – Policy reviewed briefly. Continued discussion tabled until November committee meeting. Bob will reorganize edits and tracking.
- D. Medical excuse submission process

- i. Can be facilitated through Skyward
 - ii. Policy 204 references “written excuses” multiple times.
 - 1. For a “Parental Notice of Absence” excuse is to be written and signed.
- The committee engaged in a brief discussion regarding medical excuse submission processes. Administration shared that several nearby districts already accept digital versions of excuses. The administration will continue to investigate the possibility of this option and will bring an update back to the committee in November.
- E. Awareness of consequences for conflicts with school board activities
 - i. Discussed with Dr. Goodin and Mr. McDaniel
 - Mr. Rizzo updated the committee on the discussions with Dr. Goodin and Mr. McDaniel. While there may not be a need for a policy, the committee expressed a need to have conflicts with field trips and participation in sports explicitly stated prior to families making decisions to attend field trips or participate in sports. Administration will work with Mr. McDaniel to provide clear language.
- F. School Safety, Security and Emergency Preparedness Policies to be reviewed and updated
 - i. Policy 225 – Students and the Police
 - ii. Policy 705 – Safety
 - iii. Policy 709 – Building Security
 - iv. Policy 805 – Emergency Evacuation of Schools
 - Administration provided brief updates on policies 225, 705, 709, and 805. Committee will review again in November.
- G. Policy 826 – Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act (HIPAA) - Committee decided to place a hold on revising Policy 826 until a need arises or an update from PSBA becomes available.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Policy 204 – Attendance
- B. Policy 208 – Withdrawal from School
- C. Policy 237 – Electronic Communication Devices (Revised in 2011)
 - i. Will need to invite Bob Catalano when we discuss this policy
- D. Policy updates regarding Vaping Awareness (Protocols and Education)
 - i. Will be a topic at the Town Hall Meeting this week
 - ii. Linked policies: 222 Tobacco Use, 227 Drug Abuse
 - Administration briefly introduced the policies and a need to consider revising. Policies 204 and 208 due to revised compulsory school age. Policy 237 may require revising as SFASD further adopts Spring-Ford Learning. Vaping will continue to be a discussion item and an investigation into whether our current policies (222 and 227) are sufficient.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

- PSBA Policy News Network (PNN) updates will continue to be provided and added to other business as each quarterly report is released. Recommended updates will be considered and possibly brought forward to be adopted. The committee would like to see each policy as an “overlay” on top of existing policies to easily compare differences between current policies and proposed updates.

A. PSBA Policy News Network (PNN)

i. Volume II, 2019

1. Policy 150 – Title I Comparability of Services (NEW policy)
 - a. Mandated for those school entities receiving Title I funds.
2. Policy 220 – Student Expression/Distribution and Posting of Materials (Adopted in 1991)
 - a. Recommended for legal liability purposes.
3. Policy 913 – Nonschool Organizations/Groups/Individuals (Adopted in 1991)
 - a. Recommended for legal liability purposes.
4. Policy 335 – Family and Medical Leaves (Revised in 2009)
 - a. Recommended for legal liability purposes.
5. Policy 702.1 – Crowdfunding (NEW policy)
 - a. Optional policy

ii. Volume III, 2019

1. Policy 004 – Membership (Revised in 2010)
 - a. Recommended Policy
2. Policy 201 – Admission of Students (Revised in 2012)
 - a. HB 1615 (Act 16 of 2019) – Mandated Policy
3. Policy 204 – Attendance (Revised in 2017)
 - a. HB 1615 (Act 16 of 2019) – Mandated Policy
4. Policy 208 – Withdrawal from School (Adopted in 1991)
 - a. HB 1615 (Act 16 of 2019) – Recommended Policy
5. Policy 209 – Health Examinations/Screenings (Revised in 2012)
 - a. Necessary for legal liability purposes
6. Policy 808 – Food Services (Adopted in 1991)
 - a. Required for auditing purposes

iii. Volume IV, 2019

1. Policy 333 – Professional Development (Revised in 2000)
 - a. Recommended for legal liability purposes
2. Policy 705 – Facilities and Workplace Safety (Currently being revised)
 - a. Optional policy.
3. Policy 709 – Building Security (Currently being revised)
 - a. Recommended for clarification and communication of school operations.
4. Policy 805 – Emergency Preparedness and Response (NEW policy; will probably become 805.3)
 - a. Recommended for legal liability and auditing purposes
5. Policy 805.1 – Relations with Law Enforcement Agencies (NEW policy; related to 705.1?)
 - a. Recommended for legal liability and auditing purposes

6. Policy 805.2 – School Security Personnel (NEW policy; related to 705.2?)
 - a. Recommended for legal liability and auditing purposes

X. ACTIONABLE ITEMS

XI. NEEDS FOR NEXT MEETING

XII. BOARD COMMENT

XIII. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

XIV. ADJOURNMENT