



**MINUTES**  
**SPRING GROVE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS**  
**POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**DATE/TIME of MEETING:**     **June 12, 2023 @ 5:30 PM**

**LOCATION of MEETING:**     **Spring Grove Area Middle School**  
                                  **244 Old Hanover Road, Spring Grove, PA 17362**

**ATTENDANCE:**             **The following School Directors were in attendance:**  
Karen Baum, Committee Chair, Ben Ramsay, Mike Ritz, Rachel Rohrbaugh,  
Rodney Shearer, Doug Stein, Doug White  
Nicole Wilson arrived 5:56 PM

**The following Spring Grove Area School District personnel were in attendance:**  
Dr. George W. Ioannidis, Superintendent  
Dr. Steve Guadagnino, Assistant Superintendent  
Dr. Michelle Ludwig, Director of Pupil Services  
Mark Czapp, Director of Business Operations  
Suzanne Sterner, Board Recording Secretary

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A Policy Committee meeting of the Spring Grove Area School District Board of School Directors was held on Monday, June 12, 2023. Karen Baum called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

**LEGISLATIVE CHANGES CALLING FOR POLICY REVISIONS**

Dr. Ioannidis reported that the impetus to proposed new policies and policy revisions was due to legislative actions at the state level requiring school districts to make considerations before the start of the 2023-2024 school year.

**POLICIES RELATED TO HOMELESSNESS / FOSTER CARE / EDUCATIONAL INSTABILITY**

Baum presented seven policies for consideration. Earlier this year, Senate Bill 324 was enacted into law requiring school entities to address and assist students experiencing educational instability. Dr. Ludwig gave an overview of the changes and noted that clarifying and expounding on the definition of “unaccompanied youth” was the focal point; definitions are now clearer and more codified. A Keystone Diploma, one of the proposed additions to language in Policy #251, was explained as an option available to identified unaccompanied youth. Ludwig reported that the district will continue to use a checklist to determine a student’s needs, status, and placement.

Ludwig reported that the district underwent a Homeless Audit last school year (the second in two consecutive years), scoring 93/100 this school year. One recommendation following the review was to make information more accessible on the website to assist homeless students with services and support beyond the educational environment. Ioannidis noted the positive results of the audit are a testament to the district’s work. Ioannidis added that proposed revisions to Policies #200, #202, #204, #217, and #221 are recommended to support the Pupil Services Department’s efforts and maintain consistent definitions throughout related policies to include students who are identified as experiencing educational instability.

There was some concern expressed by Board members concerning services extended to identified homeless students, particularly related to dress code. The administration indicated that the practice of working with families to provide appropriate and helpful economic resources for the family will continue and limitations and time limits will be established and enforced for consistency among all students regardless of their status.

**POLICIES RELATED TO HOME EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

Baum presented four policies, #137, 137.1, 137.2, and 137.3, for review to address requirements as the result of legislative changes related to Home Education Program students.

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Ioannidis reported that new requirements according to Act 55 have been placed on school districts to develop policies and procedures permitting children enrolled in home education programs to participate in district cocurricular activities, academic courses, and career and technical education programs on the same basis and eligibility as other students enrolled in the school district. Ioannidis explained that administrators are currently addressing what internal procedures and forms will be necessary to implement the proposed new and revised policies.

**WRAP-UP / NEXT STEPS**

On June 26<sup>th</sup>, a Directors' Study Forum (DSF) will take place following adjournment of the regular voting meeting. The policies discussed at this evening's committee meeting will be included on the DSF Agenda for review and discussion. A first reading is tentative for July 17, and a second and final reading is expected with August 14 DSF voting actions.

The meeting concluded at 6:20 PM.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:**

*Suzanne E. Sterner*

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Board Recording Secretary