

MINUTES OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING OF SENECA TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL, DISTRICT 160, SENECA, ILLINOIS

A meeting of the Policy Committee was held on May 23, 2022, at 4:30 p.m. The meeting was called to order with the following members present: Tiffany Biros, Jason Eltrevoog and Ron Frye.

Also present: Mike Coughlin and Dan Stecken.

Absent: None

A. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

B. PRESS Policy

Mr. Stecken discussed the revisions and legal changes to School Board policy as advised by PRESS. Key changes to policies included:

7:285 -Anaphylaxis Prevention, Response, and Management Program. Mr. Stecken discussed the need to modify the language from, "Food Allergy" to anaphylaxis. The policy includes the creation of an Anaphylaxis Committee (the district already has a food allergy committee), led by the school nurse. There must be ongoing annual trainings to make sure key stakeholders like teachers, paraprofessionals, and others are trained in prevention, response, and management.

2:230 - Public Participation at School Board Meetings and Petitions to the Board. The committee discussed the public comment rights, rules, and recommendations of PRESS.

4:180-Pandemic Preparedness; Management; and Recovery & Communicable and Chronic Infectious Disease. Mr. Stecken discussed the footnote updates as they relate to the Healthcare Right of Conscience Act and the impacts of court cases in Illinois regarding employee rights.

7:10 - Accommodating Transgender, Nonbinary, or Gender Non-Conforming Students. The procedure was renamed to remove the term "students" and adding nonbinary. Mr. Stecken reviewed the legal definitions of such terms as well as discussed, the Presidential Executive Order from June of 2021 that impacts much of the discrimination, harassment, and civil rights implications of policies like this. The group discussed in detail the concern for student safety and comfort at Seneca High School.

C. Handbooks: Parent/Student, Faculty, Coaching, Activities, Staff. Mr. Stecken and Mr. Coughlin discussed the revisions to various handbooks for the 2022-23 school year including: Parent/Student, Faculty, Coaching, Activities, and Staff. Most changes were minimal such as removing retirees and updating personnel lists. New updated policies, such as eligibility policies as well. Mr. Coughlin reminded the Board Committee of key changes in legal updates from PRESS and the Illinois Principal's Association such as not discriminating students based upon ethnic hairstyles that may impact student appearance, PE exemptions for religious fasting. There were also language changes to safety drills. Mr. Coughlin also discussed the legal changes for special education students who can now continue enrollment through the age of twenty-two school year, meaning if the student turned 22 in September, for example, the student could finish the school year in high school.

D. Other

The meeting adjourned at 5:23 p.m.



Board President



Board Secretary

6-15-22

Date