

**Seneca Township High School  
Policy Committee Minutes  
January 8, 2025, at 4:30 p.m.  
Superintendent's Conference Room**

1. Roll Call:

- a. Present: Superintendent Dr. Dan Stecken, Board of Education President Mr. Ron Frye, Board Member Jason Eltrevoog, Board Member Tiffany Biros, and Principal Mr. Mike Coughlin.
- b. Absent: None

2. Public Comment - There was no public comment.

3. PRESS Policies Update

- a. *2:250 Immediately Available District Public Records, 3:60 Event Reporting and Notice Requirements for Building Principals, 4:10 Fiscal and Business Management, 4:30 Revenue and Investments, 4:40 Incurring Debt, 4:60 Purchases and Contracts, 4:150 Facility Management and Building; 4:160 Environmental Quality of Buildings and Grounds, 4:170 Safety, 4:190 Targeted School Violence Prevention Program; 5:10 Equal Opportunity and Minority Recruitment; 5:20 Workplace Harassment Prohibited; 5:30 Hiring Process and Criteria, 5:35 Compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act; 5:90 Abused and Neglected Child Reporting, 5:120 Employee Ethics; Conduct; and Conflict of Interest, 5:125 Personal Technology and Social Media; 5:150 Personnel Records, 5:230 Maintaining Student Discipline; 6:20 School Year Calendar and Day, 6:50 School Wellness, 6:60 Curriculum Content, 6:65 Student Social and Emotional Development, 6:135 Accelerated Placement Program; 6:230 Library media Program, 6:270 Guidance and Counseling Program, 6:340 Student Testing and Assessment Program, 7: JO Equal Educational Opportunities, 7:JOO Health, Eye, and Dental Examinations; 7:160 Student Appearance, 7:165 School Uniforms, 7:180 Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment; 7:190 Student Discipline Guidelines; 7:200 Suspension Procedures, 7:340 School Student Records, 8:10 Connection with the Community 8:30 Definition of Child Sex Offender.*
- b. There were two PRESS issues of updates to discuss changes to School Board Policy. Before discussing the updates, he updated the committee on some important updates from legal counsel on Press Issue 116, which focused exclusively on *Title IX* legislative updates. Due to the concerns of the change in administration and the legal requirements of parent/student groups opposing Title IX, Dr. Stecken advised the Board Committee that we would not be updating Press Issue 116. It is assumed that incoming President Trump is going to overhaul Title IX, based upon his own declarations. Dr. Stecken did not want to change the policies (many which are impacted on) and then re-do them all based upon potential changes. Additionally, under advice from legal counsel, parent/student groups who oppose this could present exposure or litigation challenges if we adopted the changes and had issues.
- c. Next, Dr. Stecken reviewed the updates in Press Issue 117. Dr. Stecken broke those down into two categories: Board of Education Impacts and Operational Impacts.
  - a. Board of Education Updates: Some Updates included:

1. New BOE members training requirements.
11. Protected 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment free speech as a member of the Board of Education. If a BOE member discusses agenda items, action items, or items from executive session publicly on social media, it constitutes a *voice* of the Board of Education and should be avoided. (See 2:140, 8:10)
111. Updates to 6:60 Curriculum Content: Dr. Stecken reminded the BOE that this is a *Senecaized* policy due to the National Sex Ed Standards. However, there are also many curricula related updates that are state issued mandates to be taught including many topics such as: Career Practicum, Media Literacy, dangers of fentanyl, etc.

b. Operations Updates: Some Updates included:

1. Immediately Available District Website Postings: The School Code has been updated to reflect a list of mandatory postings on our website, some recent updates include: If you have a Truth in Taxation hearing it must be publicized on your website, at or near the top, for 30 days. Districts must also now include their report card snapshots on their website. The Title IX Non-Discrimination Coordinator information must also be posted. If there are any teacher vacancies, they must be posted.
11. Updates on safety plans (we are already ahead of the game on all of these).
111. Equal Opportunities for FMLA for pregnancies and loss of pregnancy.
- 1v. Student appearance at graduation- we cannot discriminate cultural dress regalia at a graduation ceremony.
- v. Accelerated Placement Programs- the state wants to *force* elevated rigor on students if they meet or exceed state test scores by forcing a "bump up" into honors, AP, or dual credit coursework. Dr. Stecken feels this is a family decision, not a school decision, and always encourages a conversation between parents, students, and guidance or administration on these matters. That practice will continue.

#### 4. Vision 2030

Dr. Stecken went over the recent updates to an IASB, IASA, VOICE, IASBO initiative to serve students and school districts across Illinois. The various groups, in coordination, look to get Board of Education Resolution and adoption. Vision 2020, the predecessor is where Evidence Based Funding originated and helped many rural and under-funded school districts across Illinois. Vision 2030 looks to: support student safety initiatives, put the best educators in front of our students, and effectively measure what works.

#### 5. PACE Plan 2025-26

Mr. Coughlin went over the most recent SHS updates to our PACE plan. The PACE plan seeks to put our students, by grade, with post-secondary college and career success. Mr. Coughlin went over the creation of our PACE plan, prior to COVID, but COVID interrupted the action

plan within PACE. However, SHS did not stop building our PACE include implementing the College & Career Readiness components of it including purchasing School Links, building curriculum into our coursework for these, elevating Career Practicum, etc.

6. Summer School ESY 2025

Dr. Stecken discussed the reality of our growing Like Skills classroom with the Board of Education. In past years we have transported our students in need to alternate placements, meaning tuition and transportation costs for the summer portion of Extended School Year (ESY). This is a component of their IEP's meaning we are required to offer it. Mrs. Rockrohr and Dr. Stecken produced an in-house solution that is more cost-effective and a better placement for our students, within the walls of SHS. We will run our own program in our Life Skills area in June and Mrs. Allie Keinath would love to teach the program with a few of our paraprofessionals. This will be included in future Summer School Board of Education items.

7. Other

Committee meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

  
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President, Board of Education

1-15-25  
Date

  
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Secretary, Board of Education

1-15-25  
Date