

UPPER PERKIOMEN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Education Center

2229 E. Buck Road, Pennsburg PA 18073

Policy Committee Meeting

January 19, 2021

Chair Raeann Hofkin

Ex-Officio: Melanie Cunningham, President

Members: Peg Pennepacker, Keith McCarrick

Superintendent-Dr. Allyn Roche Asst. Superintendent-Dr. Andrea Farina Business Manager-Sandy Kassel HR Director-Georgiann Fisher

Raeann Hofkin called the meeting to order. Meeting minutes from November meeting will be reviewed at next policy meeting.

Policies 226, 227, 233, 233, 228, and 235.1 were discussed.

Policy 226- Student Searches: The policy focused on lockers but didn't address other searches. The recommended revision addresses all aspects of search. The standards that apply to a search include reasonable suspicion; in that searching the backpack, person, belongings, car, etc. is likely to result in finding something that violates the law or school rules. The search needs to be reasonable in its scope. This policy addresses individual and group searches and law enforcement searches. This policy also addresses trainings for administrators on conducting searches. This policy encompasses all students. Comments/concerns from participants: making sure that building administrators discuss searches amongst each other and the communication of the policy to parents. What constitutes reasonable suspicion and the reliability of information given that contributes to the search. The Safe2Say platform is used as information that could lead to a search. Policy will move forward to the Board for a first read.

Policy 227-Controlled Substances and Paraphernalia (was called Drugs and Alcohol): The definition of controlled substances is that which is prohibited by state and federal law, including, drugs, alcohol, anabolic steroids, drug paraphernalia (including makeshift), inhalants, prescription and non-prescription drugs and look-alike drugs (powders, spices). Possession includes anytime between door to door. Extra-curricular activities are a part of the district's governance. Our Student Assistance Counselors assist students and families and lessons about drugs alcohol are offered at the elementary and middle school level. Parent and community trainings are offered as well and include information about resources. Comments/concerns from meeting participants: possible review of AR for anabolic steroids, possible discussion of drug testing. Kyle Somers addressed drug testing as it pertains to the policy. The policy allows for suspicious based testing, if there is a need, however, the evidence we gather is often enough to be able to impose the necessary discipline. Policy will move forward to the Board for a first read and a review of AR for anabolic steroids will occur at the next meeting.

Policy 233-Suspension and Expulsion: PSBA has made suggestions for revisions which were explained by Kyle. Proposed revisions to the current policy: This policy explains in greater detail what a student is entitled to when there is an informal hearing (for 4-10 days of suspension) and gives detailed components of what administration is required to do. There are also detailed components for expulsion hearings. Expulsion hearings may occur before the entire board or a committee of the board, which would be something for the board to discuss and determine procedures. There are different procedures that are followed for students with disabilities. The policy adds language about certain protections and if a student is expelled, he/she will be provided with an appropriate education outside of one of our schools. This policy also guarantees that all students receive confidentiality and that protections are adhered to by the district. Policy will move forward to the Board for a first read.

Policy 228-Student Government: There are no substantive changes. One recommendation on the proposed policy was a statement that reads "the Superintendent shall develop administrative regulations to implement this policy". Dr. Farina suggested using the language which talks about inviting student participation, ensuring equal access and requiring physical accountability. There was a discussion regarding language about members of student government being the official voice of the entire student body and whether or not that statement should remain. Operationally, the student government takes surveys, polls, etc of the grade level and then represents that decision to administration. The discussion about the language will continue at the March meeting. Looking to get student council advisors from the MS and HS at the next meeting to provide information to committee members about our student government and the national guidelines.

Policy 235.1-Surveys: This policy is intended to set forth the guidelines to conduct surveys and collect information for the district. It refers to personal identifiers and the protection of those identities. This policy gives information to families about our intent for collecting information. Parents have the right to choose that their child(ren) not participate. This is a new policy for our district and if adopted, we should train personnel who conduct surveys about the policy. Policy will move forward to the Board for a first read.

Motion to adjourn made by Peg Pennepacker and seconded by Keith McCarrick. Raeann Hofkin adjourned the meeting.