

UPPER PERKIOMEN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Education Center

2229 E. Buck Road, Pennsburg PA 18073

**Policy Committee Meeting**

April 19, 2021

Chair: Peg Pennepacker      Ex-Officio: Melanie Cunningham, President

Members: Stephen Cunningham, Keith McCarrick

Superintendent-Dr. Allyn Roche    Asst. Superintendent-Dr. Andrea Farina    Business Manager-Sandy Kassel

HR Director-Georgiann Fisher

**Class Rank:** A presentation was given at the previous board meeting and multiple conversations have also occurred. Dr. Farina explained that there were two choices presented at the Policy Committee meetings which were to continue with the current policy (using class rank) or changing the policy to eliminate class rank (it would not be on a transcript and it would not be calculated). The Committee and Administration decided the second option was not the one to choose because there are a lot of variables at play. The current policy has been modified as such: For classes through 2023: Class rank will be on school transcripts and end of academic year beginning with the conclusion of a student's 10<sup>th</sup> grade year. For the Class of 2024 and beyond: Class rank and all references to class rank shall not appear on school district documents. The reporting of class rank will only be provided upon parent/guardian request and will be forwarded directly to the requesting college, university, etc. for the purpose of admission, scholarship, or any other reason deemed necessary.

Dr. Robert Carpenter stated that the goal to not publish class rank is to help and recognize more students and that the importance of class rank has diminished over the last several years, according to college admissions offices and counselors. We have looked at the Laude System and believe that it recognizes more students and is a "resume booster" for college applications.

Class rank policy is at the discretion of the school board and it is not dictated by law.

Parent expressed concern that students who rank higher may be hurt by taking it away. Concern was expressed by multiple parents about the removal of the valedictorian and salutatorian as it pertains to scholarships and college acceptance.

Dr. Farina explained that with the change of policy, valedictorian and salutatorian would be changed to class speaker. Kyle Somers stated that these two honors are not a part of the policy and the board could modify the proposed policy to include verbiage about how those honors are chosen.

Keith McCarrick would like to further discuss valedictorian and salutatorian.

Stephen Cunningham is comfortable with the proposed language of the proposed policy but doesn't feel there needs to be a purpose statement.

Peg Pennepacker agrees that the purpose statement would be better if it was simplified. Melanie Cunningham agreed.

The participating board members agreed they want to modify the purpose statement and remove the last sentence under the For the Class of 2024 and beyond before moving the policy for a first read. Dr. Farina will make the adjustments and it will move forward for a first read at the May Board Meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05.