

UPPER PERKIOMEN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Education Center

2229 E. Buck Road

Pennsburg PA 18073

**Policy Committee Meeting**

October 19, 2020

Chair Raeann Hofkin

Ex-Officio: Dr. Kerry Drake, President

Members: Stephen Cunningham, Peg Pennepacker

Asst Superintendent-Dr. Andrea Farina

Business Manager-Sandy Kassel

HR Director-Georgiann Fisher

Approval of September 21, 2020 meeting minutes.

**212-AR 0. Student Progress**

Teachers shall periodically evaluate student progress and report student achievement according to established guidelines. Student evaluation should be based on the core standards and objectives of the course and/or specific course competencies appropriate for the grade level, content area, and ability of the student. The policy includes definitions of different types of assessments, grading period, reporting student progress, report cards for elementary, middle and high school, grade point average, class rank and NWEA Map assessment.

Peg Pennepacker: GPA...Are we moving away from class rank? Dr. Farina: We have not determined eliminating class rank, but if we do, we will revise this policy regarding GPA.

Peg Pennepacker: Having a policy is one thing but enforcing the policy is another. Dr. Farina: This is a category in the teacher evaluations and this policy was developed with the collaboration of the principals, so they are aware of it.

Peg Pennepacker: Is this policy applicable to the other disciplines (physical education, art, music)? Dr. Farina: Absolutely it is.

**215-AR-0 Promotion Retention Acceleration**

The district recognizes that the academic, social, emotional and physical growth of students will vary. Students will be placed in the educational environment appropriate to their needs. To ensure success, instruction will be aligned with the abilities of the individual students.

Factors to be considered in retention include, achievement/performance, ability/effort, attendance, chronological age, social, emotional, and physical development, previous retention. The district will use Light's Retention Scale to gather data about a student in jeopardy of failing. Parents and district staff will collaborate for determination and it has to be in the best interest of the student. Every intervention must be tried prior to a retention discussion. A student will not be retained more than two years in any grade.

Acceleration: The district will assist students so they may progress academically in accordance with their capabilities. While provisions for individual differences should be adequately accomplished within a grade level, it may occasionally be necessary to advance a student to the next grade. Eligibility may be recommended by the teacher, guidance counselor or a designated building consultation team. There are 6 criteria for literacy and 6 criteria for math. At the middle school level, there are 7 additional criteria that are taken into consideration.

Elementary and middle school students will be promoted to the succeeding grade level when they have: completed the curriculum requirements of present grade, achieved the instructional objectives set of the present grade, demonstrated proficiency to move ahead to the next grade level, demonstrated the degree of social, emotional and physical maturity to have a successful learning experience at the next grade level.

Peg Pennepacker: How would you measure ability/effort, social/emotional ability? Dr. Farina: We are looking for ability to manage behavior, make and engage friends, conflict resolution abilities. Anecdotal reporting, communication with parents, discipline reports factor into discussion.

Peg Pennepacker: With acceleration, does that intersect with early graduation? Dr. Farina: It will become an issue if we drop our graduation requirements. We don't have an early graduation track right now. There are conversations regarding graduation requirements right now.

Last statement of policy was modified to include a collaboration statement.

#### **215-AR-0. Retention Procedures**

Teachers will inform parents/guardians as early as possible that a student is having difficulty and that cooperative efforts between the home and school are necessary to assist the students. Data must be collected and presented. Data including MTSS, child find, PSSA, MAP, Keystone benchmarks, tutoring is used. A retention data sheet, letter and parent response form are completed.

#### **216 Student Records AR**

FERPA-Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. Parents are notified annually of the policies and procedures of the District regarding student education records and the rights of parents under both State and Federal law concerning confidentiality of education records of all students. Additions to the policy include definitions of attendance, directory information, disclosure, education records, eligible student, parent, personally identifiable information, emancipated student, Individualized Education Program, legitimate educational interest, multi-disciplinary evaluation.

The directory information section will be reviewed for clarity.

#### **Policy Number 235 Student Rights and Responsibilities**

The responsibility of the students include eleven areas. Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action, consistent with the Discipline Code and Board policy. A listing of students' rights and responsibilities are included in the Discipline Code which is distributed annually to students and parents/guardians. All students have the right to submit a complaint under board policy if they have been subject to any harassment or sexual violence.

Discussion about Policy 234 Pregnant/Parenting/Married Students. Language regarding alternative education program and students who are parenting were main considerations. This policy will be discussed at future meeting.

Final 701 AR Naming of Facilities will be discussed at a future date due to absence of Stephen Cunningham at this meeting.

Motion to adjourn meeting.