

State College Area School District

OUR MISSION: To prepare students for lifelong success through excellence in education.

IV-A

September 20, 2016 Culture, Climate and Learning Committee Meeting

10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. - Meeting Room A - Panorama Village

131 West Nittany Avenue

State College, PA 16801

I. Call to Order

Mr. Hutchinson called the meeting of the Board Culture, Climate and Learning Committee to order at 10:38 a.m. He noted the first agenda item on the agenda was Policy 217 - Graduation Requirements. He turned the meeting over to Dr. O'Donnell for the recommendation.

Present: Amy Bader (by phone), Deirdre Bauer, Vernon Bock, Lars DeLorenzi, Mary Jenn Dorman, Dan Duffy, David Hutchinson, Curtis Johnson, Jeanne Knouse, Jim Leous, Jacque Martin, Bob O'Donnell, Jason Perrin, Laurel Zydney

A copy of all materials distributed to board members for discussion is included with the official notes, unless otherwise indicated.

II. Policy 217: Graduation Requirements

Dr. O'Donnell spoke on the recommendation to adjust the credits to be in line with opportunities for students to be college and career ready. They are talking about raising the credits to 25, maximizing choices for students. Currently, the graduation requirement is 22.5 credits. Mr. Hutchinson noted this is a good argument for choice, adding credits but not really mandating what they need to be.

Dr. O'Donnell noted that one class relates to finance and should we require every student to take this? Later exposure would be more relevant for this class for opening a checking account. Students will need to take a full class load to achieve 25 credits. The guidelines would bring clarity for the 25 credits and Dr. O'Donnell noted that they would be eliminating the culminating project from the policy. Ms. Martin noted she met with counselors yesterday and all were in agreement to eliminate the culminating project since it was eliminated by PDE in Chapter 4. Regarding the Community Service, courses and projects will be finalized by teachers and the project will be closely aligned with the student's Learning Community instead of an English class. Dr. O'Donnell also spoke on the Diploma of Distinction, which would also be in the guidelines. Student representative, Lars DeLorenzi, spoke to Health and Phys. Ed., in his opinion, the online courses are less than a perfect option, and for athletes - could possibly shift requirements in a selective program to customize your own. Dr. O'Donnell noted there needs to be a certified teacher to oversee to get credits. The Policy can be broad and have outlined specifics in the guidelines.

III. Proposed School Climate Policy (Draft)

Mr. Hutchinson noted the Proposed Policy is more of what we want to do, not what we do not want to do. We need to "cross walk" this with things already going on and do not want to create another layer. With the Strategic Planning group, the structure is already there. The data from the Strategic Plan is very powerful on what should be included related to specific policies and the consequences. This policy will be an ongoing process and not

accomplished by or on a specific date. The implementation would fall under the guidelines.

After further discussion and suggestions that we integrate this with what Carlos Wiley is doing, we need to align where we need to get better either by building or the District. This is more of a policy than a plan and need to attach a guideline (goal for initiative). Carlos Wiley could review this and then would be invited to come back with A-Team for a review. Once this process is complete, the policy will be brought back to this committee.

IV. International Baccalaureate

Dr. O'Donnell noted this was on the next agenda. Ms. Martin and Ms. Bauer are here so he would like them to talk about where we are.

Committee member noted for a future discussion, they should talk about communication. The communication for this past weekend issue was superb. Mr. Johnson noted that the student handbook does outline consequences for the misuse of social media with Twitter and Facebook and how to use safely and responsibly. Spoke about parents monitoring their child's use of social media, could have a session to teach parents what students know/do and what the consequences are of social media with scasd.org accounts used. Parents need to know how to access and know that their children are safe, especially with technology moving so quickly. Dr. O'Donnell will check with Mr. Zepp on what the network does and blocking, and if it is possible, do a hands on experience for parents with an iPhone, Droid and Chromebook.

Back to IB... Ms. Martin spoke about the team working on a proposal to the Board with a variety of options for IB Programmes, getting parent and student input, and the budget implications through the years. We will need to apply April 1, 2017, will give the details of Programme options and the Board would be approving a long-term commitment. She spoke on the different levels of the programme (elementary, middle and high school), the application process, being authorized and the fee, the assessment fee, and the earliest implementation would be fall 2018. She will be visiting two schools with IB Programmes and will provide an update at the next meeting.

V. Future Agenda Planning

- Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 26 - 10:30 a.m., Panorama Village
- International Baccalaureate Update on two site visits
- Follow up on Graduation Requirement Policy
- Instructional Technology
- High School Learning Community
- Weighting Policy - Discuss the weighted GPA

VI. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

VII. Adjournment

Mr. Hutchinson adjourned the meeting of the Culture, Climate and Learning Committee at 12:03 p.m.

Submitted by,

Mary Jenn Dorman, Board Secretary