

## **Culture, Climate and Learning Committee Meeting Notes**

**October 26, 2016**

**IV-B**

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

**Panorama Village Administrative Center**

**240 Villa Crest Drive**

**State College, PA 16801**

### **I. Call to Order**

Mr. Hutchinson called the meeting of the Board Culture, Climate and Learning Committee to order at 10:33 a.m.

Present: Amy Bader (arrived 10:41 a.m.), Deirdre Bauer, Vernon Bock, Amber Concepcion (arrived 10:40 a.m.), Lars DeLorenzi, Mary Jenn Dorman, David Hutchinson, Curtis Johnson, Jacque Martin, Bob O'Donnell, Jason Perrin, Linda Pierce, Laurel Zydney

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

### **II. Proposed School Climate Policy (Draft - revised)**

Mr. Hutchinson noted the revised policy that was being presented and voiced being OK with the title of the Policy. Dr. Perrin explained that he, Mr. Bock, Mr. Johnson and Mr. Wiley had a meeting as suggested at the last CCL Committee meeting and this recommendation, to change the Policy title to Inclusive Excellence, came out of their meeting. The goal is to improve the climate but inclusion does not hit all the climate issues. Ms. Pierce noted that she and Mr. Hutchinson thought School Climate was a better umbrella and Inclusive Excellence would be under this. After further discussion on keeping this streamlined and positive, it was decided that the title should be School Climate/ Inclusive Excellence Policy since the goal is to be one in the same for every student.

Dr. Perrin noted they will look at what we are currently doing, what we are trying to do, and have all go in the same direction. Need to include the new title at the bottom of page 2, and at the top of page 2 change, "To implement and environment..." to, **Create and sustain an environment ...** since we do not just want to start, but have this ongoing. This policy will be taken to the full Board at its November 14 meeting for the first reading under Information/Discussion.

The committee members spoke on creating environments to share and have a clear understanding where someone could go to talk. An individual would go to the principal, the principal should establish a venue for this and Mr. Johnson noted an Inclusive Excellence Group is in every building. He also has a Diversity Club. On page 3, the expectation for individual schools is outlined.

### **III. Policy 217: Graduation Requirements**

#### **Proposed Policy**

This Policy was adjusted to sight state regulations and added other wars in #4 on the first page. After discussion, it was decided to have #4 read, **"Request for a veteran's diploma according...."** and not list individual wars. Mr. Hutchinson spoke on the administrative guidelines and that the guidelines would be put with the policy on the website. Dr. O'Donnell noted the class of 2020 would have the higher number of credits.

The student representative spoke on the officer's meeting and most thought that three-years of physical education was a good option, one-year of health, and Foreign Language a good idea. The leadership council was less enthusiastic but with the number of students there and being self-elected, it was not a

good representation of the school. Students prefer to have high intensity courses. Further discussion occurred by committee members on the Financial Literacy course, this course not being a requirement, and the need to have a good explanation for parents. They spoke on Health classes and especially classes online having relevance and matching up with what is taught in the building, proposed changes would not be policy but could come back to the Board. Evaluation of the current schedule would be done in a couple years when the project is over and they plan to evaluate the best configuration of a schedule. They would like eight periods plus a lunch.

### **Resulting Administrative Guidelines**

Dr. Perrin noted the guidelines were provided for the specific number of credits in various academic areas supporting the proposed increase. The proposed guidelines allow for 3.0 more credits of student electives (choice) within the proposed 25.0 credit requirement.

Mr. Johnson spoke on the Diploma of Distinction and could be separate under the Student Learning Communities. The avenues have not been flushed out yet for this and could be something to go in the guidelines. Ms. Martin spoke on the course selection guide and gave a complete explanation of what happens in the departments, the role of the counselors for students, and what is also required for life skills. It was determined that Policy 217 and 217 G (Guidelines) would go to the Board on the November 14 meeting agenda for a first reading under Information/Discussion.

## **IV. Curriculum Update**

### **International Baccalaureate**

Dr. Perrin noted a Leadership Group District-Wide is doing visits and had just been to Lancaster, which proved to be a valuable visit with good information. The group will be mapping out community presentations, will need to see where the focus should be and propose the direction to the Board on what and why. Ms. Martin noted there is a tool kit available to them and they can use the presentation to email all parents for knowledge on how to respond to a survey. There is also a survey for teacher and student input. They would like to have information needed by December to prepare for the application and presentation. Dr. Perrin added they are looking to possibly visit Montgomery County that has a Primary IB Programme. They have picked two dates for the presentation and the same information will be online. Committee members discussed the look of the IB Programme, possibly good for Board members to attend a visit also, the Board needing to commit to following through with this in January to process application materials for April 1, 2017. Administration will prepare the options and programs, the application phase with fees in the process and all information needed for action. The Board would know exactly what they are committing to for the multi-year process. Dr. O'Donnell added they will look at future meetings of this committee to bring IB back.

### **New Course Proposals for 2017-2018**

Ms. Martin noted the new course proposal usually goes straight to the Board but brought to this committee first for any questions. She provided clarification on the split College Prep Algebra and noted the process and explanation to students and parents, the College Prep Algebra is remaining for three options, and AP Human Geography would be an elective for freshmen. Other comments were offered but no concerns were voiced. Ms. Martin noted they would like to have the new course proposals approved to be put in the

course guide for next year. The new course proposals listed below will be placed on the November 14 Board meeting agenda under Information/Discussion:

- 1) Chinese 3 - new, 2) AP Human Geography - new, 3) AP World History - new, 4) C++ Programming - new, 5) CP Algebra 1 A - new option, 6) CP Algebra 1 B - new option, and 7) Guitar 2 - formalizes a course on transcripts for students who take guitar again at a higher level.

Dr. O'Donnell spoke on IB being such a major shift and Board members taking a look might be helpful due to the change process. They may need to understand how to talk with the people of our community, especially if we change one or two elementary schools only. Montgomery County would be the place to go but on a separate date than the IB visit viewing curriculum.

#### **V. PDE Requirement for Comprehensive Planning Committee Professional Education Subcommittee**

Dr. O'Donnell reviewed information on the Strategic Planning Steering Committee and provided the list of people serving on the Professional Education Subcommittee. The Board will need to approve this committee of six people and they are also on the Steering Committee. He noted they have a good group of people. This will be an action item on the November 14 agenda.

#### **VI. Future Agenda Planning**

- Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 15 - 10:30 a.m., Panorama Village
- Student Achievement update (December/January)
- K-12 Curriculum Development Cycle Update (timelines)
- Grading/Course Weighting
- Homework

Review the following:

- Proposed School Climate/Inclusive Excellence Policy will be on the November 14 agenda for Information/Discussion
- Proposed Policy 217 - Graduation Requirements and 217G, Administrative Guidelines will be on the November 14 agenda for Information/Discussion
- New Course Proposals for 2017-2018 will be on the November 14 agenda for Information/Discussion and for approval the first meeting in December
- The Professional Education Subcommittee for the Comprehensive Planning Committee will be on the November 14 agenda for action
- IB will be brought back to this committee in the near future

#### **VII. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

#### **VIII. Adjournment**

Mr. Hutchinson adjourned the Board Culture, Climate and Learning Committee meeting at 12:19 p.m.

Submitted by,

Mary Jenn Dorman, Board Secretary