

**August 17, 2016 Culture, Climate and Learning Subcommittee Meeting**

**10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

**Central Office - Room 200**

**131 West Nittany Avenue**

**State College, PA 16801**

**IV-B**

**I. Call to Order**

Mr. Hutchinson called the meeting of the Board Culture, Climate and Learning Committee to order at 10:35 a.m.

Present: Amy Bader (arrived 10:45 am), Deirdre Bauer, Vernon Bock, Lars DeLorenzi, Mary Jenn Dorman, David Hutchinson, Curtis Johnson (arrived 10:38 am), 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 minutes, unless otherwise indicated.

**II. High School Graduation Requirements Policy 217**

Dr. O'Donnell spoke on student choice - the first Principle that came through loud and clear. Would like to reflect on graduation requirements, there being a low bar overall, and raising the bar to maximize choice options and it is not an unreasonable move. Mr. Hutchinson noted most people think this is reasonable, but also need to have a higher level conversation why we even have education requirements.

Discussion occurred on what raising the bar would do, the graduation rate, now need 22.5 credits to graduate, and would raise to 24.5 credits. With the block schedule, students have the potential to take 32 credits/year and could graduate a year early. With the 24.5 credits that are being suggested, students still have flexibility for choice and a study hall. The purpose is to try to interest all students to take more courses with the goal to have most students college and career ready. This could raise the bar for low motivated students, at this point approximately 20%, but this could also increase class sizes for electives.

Ms. Martin noted that the graduation project is no longer a state requirement and questioned if we should continue with this or delete. After some discussion, it was determined to eliminate the project since it is no longer required, and not a part of Chapter 4. Spoke on community service project and not being in the Policy, board members being a little more reluctant to drop this project, this is a good time for students to have this requirement. It is open for what they would like to do but does have parameters. This could be engaging in curriculum as a component of why and how this helps humanity and could be built into any course. After further discussion Dr. O'Donnell mentioned Financial Literacy as a requirement. Suggestions were made as to where in the curriculum it would fit, there being a personal finance class already offered through CTC Program but not for all students, and how this would work in schedules as a .5 credit course. Language would be drafted for Community Service Project and Personal Finance course to be reviewed.

Question was raised if we would be in conflict with choice? Mr. Johnson spoke on the Personal Finance course not being an AP or Advanced Course and students would worry about bringing their GPA down. Ms. Martin noted the Commonwealth has changed Keystone Exams and students can opt in or opt out but we do not know what this means yet.

The SPP is what we are rated on, standardized results are used, we dropped out of ratings because of the achievement gap that is due to the standardized results. Spoke on the discrepancies between being in class and the online courses, the physical education course specifically, state requires two years, we have four years, and choice is what this community desires and offering different possibilities but most do not meet the curriculum requirement or the standard. If we would reduce the requirement here for our District, can we do what we want to get to the 24.5 credits?

### **III. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **IV. Future Agenda Planning**

Mr. Hutchinson noted the District does not have a grading policy and a future item would be GPA - Weighted Grades. Ms. Pierce has begun work on School Climate and the Inclusive Excellence Policy.

It was noted that 80% of our students go to college and take two years of world languages.

The Next Meeting of the Culture, Climate and Learning Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, September 20, 2016 at 10:30 a.m.

### **V. Adjournment**

Mr. Hutchinson adjourned the Culture, Climate and Learning Committee meeting at 12:05 p.m.

Submitted by,

Mary Jenn Dorman  
Board Secretary