

# Bloomsburg Area School District

July 18, 2024 | Policy & Academic Affairs Committee Meeting

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**Call to Order:** 8:00 am

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Panel Attendees:**

Marianne Kreisher, Amanda Orzolek, Josh Klingerman, Jonathan Cleaver, Amy Melchiorre, Michelle Prybyla, Ann Kostic, Dan Yarnell, Pam Kramer

**Public Comment Related to Agenda Items:** None

**Old Business:**

Scheduling Update:

High School - 88% Scheduled - Guidance counselors making adjustments

Middle School - about  $\frac{1}{3}$  is currently scheduled . Band & Chorus times will look differently this year to accommodate for more time in electives

Elementary - 6 day schedule will allow for more flexibility with shared teachers

New Courses:

Excited to add on a few new courses this year.

Meteorology - new  $\frac{1}{2}$  credit that will be an elective in the spring

Forensics - taught by new physics teacher

Fiber Arts

These courses will require a few minor expenditures.

## Policy 718: Service Animals in Schools Update

Parent at WW Evans is requesting a service dog

Guy reached out to the parent to give policy and discuss necessary requirements of the handler.

We also are working on what we need to do as a district to prepare such as reaching out to the bus companies and our insurance company.

## Policy 707: Use of Facilities (Group Training)

District athletic teams are using outside groups for training (strength and conditioning etc). Some of these groups are charging a fee to the students.

We need to add language into the policy to cover these situations.

### *Action Item:*

JJ to make the amendment to the policy for us to review at the next meeting

## Title IX Policy/Restroom Use Policy

Title IX -

Major changes have been made to Title IX and how it relates to the issues we are having in sports with individuals that are identifying as different genders.

Federal guidelines update - students by law are permitted to use bathrooms that they are identifying with. There is wording that they have to stay within the gender that they choose and they can not go back and forth between genders.

Nicole & Dan attended training on the changes initiated April 1 to be put into place in August this year. However, the timelines have been extended. Nicole has reached out to the law firm to receive additional information that should help us to write the policy.

Upcoming requirements for training we need to stay on top of for administrators, bus drivers, and even volunteers within the district regarding what is reportable and levels of reporting. The reporting process is lengthy.

Restroom Use - We need a basic restroom use policy in place

PIAA - where a student's gender is questioned - the decision on the gender falls on the school Principal. We should include the PIAA wording within our policy so it is clear when it is questioned through athletics

*Action Items:*

- 1) Steph to resend the information to the committee on the changes on Title IX
- 2) JJ to create a basic restroom use policy for the next meeting, to include PIAA wording in regards to athletics

**New Business:**

Sapphire Update

90% Tasks completed. All buildings are actively scheduling within the system. Instructional videos will be on websites for parents and a one call will be going out. Eventually hoping to go to electronic registration and a few other changes in the near future once the school year starts. In-service training is in the works and information is out to all of the teachers

Grading Scale

Initial feedback from teachers

- Did not receive it well
- More scrutinized by elementary and secondary teachers
- Did not feel it would change the student's performance

Committee discussion on that the focus needs to be not only on the lower level students but also the middle level and for higher level children as well. It's not just lowering the bar for passing. The goal is to help those motivated students to achieve.

Committee would like more discussions with the teachers and to explain the focus is not only on those that are at the lower level. Dan did mention that not everyone pushed back.

Grading Scale and Honor Roll requirements are two different things and should be looked at separately.

## Potential Changes:

### Honor Roll:

90-94.9 honors

95 and up distinguished

### Grading Scale:

65-69 D

70-79 C

80-89 B

90-100 A

### *Action Items:*

- 1) JJ to put together goals on this change and specifics for the next meeting.
- 2) Amy to have a handful of department heads at the meeting to discuss.

## Gifted Policy

Permission was granted to review and present a more thorough policy to the board. Marianne explained that the committee is not in place to grant permissions to review policies, instead it is to bring forth any changes that anyone feels should be considered

## Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale Screener

This is a universal tool that is being utilized in Columbia County by all the schools Bloomsburg utilized this last year with our own guidance counselors. Guidance found it very useful. Ann would like the district to approve continued use of this screener.

## Other Items for the Good of the Order

### Additional Items to Discuss at Next Meeting:

- 1) Artificial intelligence policy and training
- 2) Arconic Grant
- 3) Library Grant Opportunities

### **Adjournment of Meeting:** 9:05 am

Motion: Josh Klingerman

Second: Amanda Orzolek

**Next Meeting: TBD**