

Saucon Valley School District Academic and Personnel Committee

August 7, 2024 – 5:00 pm
District Office Conference Room

Welcome to the Academic and Personnel Committee meeting. Our objective is to serve the students, parents, and residents of our community. You are an important part of this meeting, and we look forward to your questions and comments.

We are all here for the same reason. All opinions are welcomed and equally valuable. Our only request is that we address each other with civility and respect. Our courtesy toward each other is the best way to show our students how much we respect them as well.

Committee Members - William Broun, Cedric Dettmar, Tracy Magnotta, Shamim Pakzad

Committee Agenda

- I. **Call to the Order** – *Tracy Magnotta, Committee Chair*
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance**
- III. **Recording of Attendance** – *Tracy Magnotta, Committee Chair*
- IV. **Motion to Approve Agenda** –
- V. **Approval of Minutes** – June 5, 2024
- VI. **Courtesy of the Floor to Visitors – Agenda Items Only** - *Visitors should state their name and address*
- VII. **Discussion & Action: Building Level Student Handbooks**
 - Elementary School Student Handbook
 - Middle School Student Handbook
 - High School Student Handbook
- VIII. **New Business**
- IX. **Old Business**
- X. **Citizens' Inquiries and Comments** – *Visitors should state their name and address*
- XI. **Announcements**

Future Meetings ~ Wednesday, September 3, 2024 – 5:00 PM
- XII. **Motion to Adjourn Meeting**

Saucon Valley School District
Academic and Personnel Committee
Minutes of June 5, 2024

Present at the June 5, 2024, Academic & Personnel Committee were Academic and Personnel Committee Board Members William Broun, Cedric Dettmar, Tracy Magnotta, and Dr. Shamim Pakzad. Also present were Superintendent Jaime Vlasaty, David Bonenberger, Business Manager, and Robert Frey, Director of Student and Community Relations.

- I. **Call to the Order** – 5:00 pm - *Cedric Dettmar, Committee Member*
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance**
- III. **Recording of Attendance** – *Tracy Magnotta, Committee Chair*
3-present, 1-absent (Pakzad)
- IV. **Motion to Approve Agenda** – Director Broun, seconded by Director Magnotta, moved to approve the Agenda. Vote: 3-yes, 0-no, 1-absent (Pakzad)
- V. **Approval of Minutes** – Director Magnotta, seconded by Director Broun, moved to approve the minutes of May 15, 2024. Vote: 3-yes, 0-no

VI. **Courtesy of the Floor to Visitors – Agenda Items Only** - None

VII. **Discussion:** Curriculum

- Business, Computers and Information Technology

Dr Pakzad arrived at 5:03 pm

Looking to bring industry credentials to have the kids certified when they graduate.
Build stronger relationships with local businesses.

- Family and Consumer Science

Pilot mode standards are not set yet—resources and looking at college and career readiness.

- K-4 Library

VIII. **Discussion & Action:** Policies

- Policy 236.1 – Threat Assessment
- Policy 249 – Bullying/Cyberbullying
- Policy 249 AR1 – Discrimination/Sexual Harassment/Bullying/Hazing/Dating Violence/Retaliation Report Form
- Policy 252 – Dating Violence
- Policy 252 AR-1 - Discrimination/Sexual Harassment/Bullying/Hazing/Dating Violence/Retaliation Report Form

Director Pakzad, seconded by Director Broun, moved to table Policy 236.1- Threat Assessment.
Vote: 4-yes, 0-no

Director Broun, seconded by Director Magnotta, moved to send Policies 249, 249 AR1, 252, 252 AR-1 to the Board for approval.
Vote: 4-yes, 0-no

Dr. Pakzad left at 6:50 pm

IX. New Business

Director Magnotta would like to see a lifeguarding class added back in high school. This way, students can get PE credit and only pay \$40, compared to having to pay for private classes at \$300.

X. Old Business

Director Broun is concerned about developing an AI policy. Superintendent Vlasaty reported that PSBA just gave us a policy, and we have been developing policies and procedures to hopefully have by the July meeting.

XI. Citizens' Inquiries and Comments – *Visitors should state their name and address*

P. Silverthorn – Commented on ELA. She is concerned that the guiding principals promote culturally responsive English language arts education that honors the identities, cultures, and experiences of all students, integrating diverse texts and voices to promote empathy, understanding, and respect. It feels like a slippery slope and one step closer to CRT.

A representative from the theater group: She is fed up with the directors we have for our theater program. We have not had people involved who have experience working with high school kids. She feels they need to be qualified to work with the kids and their busy schedules. She feels we need to create a rubric of what we expect of the theater director. She wants the Board to look at resumes and to see the productions they have done.

Director Broun asked what the concerned students said. Superintendent Vlasaty said that they are not having the same experience as they have in the past. Director Broun wanted to know if we have any requirements like BFAs. Superintendent Vlasaty stated that we had a personnel issue, and if we had not hired someone, we would not have had a play.

XII. Announcements

Future Meetings ~ Wednesday, July 3, 2024 – 5:00 PM

XIII. Motion to Adjourn Meeting

Director Magnotta, seconded by Director Broun, moved to adjourn the meeting.

Vote: 3-yes, 0-no, 1-absent (Pakzad)

Time: 7:13 pm