

Loyalsock Township School District

Student Activities/Athletics Committee

*Board Conference Room
1720 Sycamore Road
Montoursville, PA 17754*

June 22, 2010

Minutes

1. **Time – 3:00 p.m.**
2. **Roll Call – Sheila Yates, Chair**

MEMBER

Edward Ade (arrived at 3:45 p.m.)
 Maureen Carey
 Margaret Piper

MEMBER

Stephen Dewar
 Sheila Yates, Chair

OTHERS

Matthew Reitz, Loyalsock Township High School Principal
 Jeffrey Hartmann, Assistant High School Principal
 Robert Gaetano, Middle School Principal
 John Rhoads, Donald E. Schick Elementary School Principal
 Charles Greevy, IV, Assistant Elementary School Principal
 Sherry Griggs, Supervisor of Curriculum & Instruction
 Dayne Waller, Supervisor of Special Education (arrived at 4:00 p.m.)
 Eric Gee, Director of Technology
 Christina Herman, Director of Student Services
 Ronald Insinger, Athletic Director
 Robert Grantier
 Cheri King

3. **Drug & Alcohol Issues**

Discussion –

- Administrative Summary on Discussion of Drug Policies in School (attached)
Mr. Grantier reviewed the administrative summary on discussion of drug policies in school. In addition to the summary:
 - Mr. Insinger felt that drug and alcohol testing is long overdue.
 - The entire administration (including Mr. Grantier) agreed to be tested.
 - PA Youth Survey started in 2003 and is taken every two years. Middle school usage is usually higher because high school students don't trust that the survey is anonymous. Results from 2009 should be in soon.

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- Mr. Gaetano was in favor of a drug and alcohol testing policy because it gives students a reason to say NO. Once students are in the loop, they can't be removed for one year. If a student tested negative, he/she would receive a congratulatory letter. If a student tested positive, he/she would be ineligible to participate in sports for 20 PIAA days and referred to a SAP. He said that since it is only for students outside the normal body, some students will fall through the cracks. Students outside the normal body include students involved in athletics, student drivers, clubs, organizations, extracurricular activities, etc.
- Mr. Grantier felt that 85% of students would qualify for testing.
- All members felt that zero tolerance does not work. Students need a second chance.

- History of Drug & Alcohol Violations Reviewed (attached)

- Goals & Issues of a Drug Policy
 - Educate our community, parents and students
 - Educate our faculty, staff, coaches, and volunteers
 - Preventive Approach
 - Assist students with addictive behaviors
 - Promote our school (let students know that we care; let community know that we have a drug testing policy)

- Overall Participation Rate
 - 1,000 students are involved in sports (some students overlap)
 - 325 students involved in sports

- Procedures - Pine Grove Area School District reviewed

- Policy
 - Revise current policy to include testing if there is reasonable suspicion. We will need to check with Attorney Carlucci and our solicitor regarding the legality of revising the policy.
 - We want students to know that they are important.
 - Additional meetings will be held to include all stakeholders.

- Performance Enhancing Drugs
 - Mr. Grantier commented that performance enhancing drugs are here and readily available to our students at any gym.

- Surveys (students, parents, staff, administrative, community) All stakeholders need to be involved.

- Timeline
 - Revise current policy to include testing if there is reasonable suspicion. We will check with the solicitor regarding legal ramifications. First reading of revised policy should be on July 14, 2010. The committee would like to recommend adoption in August.
 - The committee would like to recommend a drug and alcohol testing policy for adoption and implementation by January 2011.
 - The committee should think of stakeholders to invite to a meeting in August/September. (Booster club, community members, students, coaches, coroner, safe and drug-free council members, parents, etc.)
 - We need to let everyone know that a policy is being explored to address issues of concerns that have surfaced.
 - The committee needs to come up with a name/slogan for an awareness campaign. It was decided to wait for the students.
 - Members should email ideas, concerns, etc. to Mrs. King. She will keep a running log to be shared with the committee.

- Programs
 - Cross-age interaction is very important. It creates a “self worth” for young students.
 - Mrs. Waller commented that she taught some courses and stated that it is very important to have a good rapport with the students.
 - The curriculum needs to be enhanced in grades 8 and 9.
 - We should bring back former graduates and share testimonials. (The good, bad, etc.)
 - Mrs. Herman discussed revamping programs. Refusal skills are being taught by students. Annually, there is interaction between high school students and elementary students during red ribbon week. Students are put in a mentor role. Discussing attitudes toward drugs, alcohol and prescription drugs. The 2007 PA Youth Survey showed a jump in usage. Wellness activities are being introduced. Discussion and knowledge of gateway drugs.
 - Mrs. Griggs commented on the courses currently being taught, *Know Your Body*, etc.
- Employee Testing (Employee Assistance Program)
- Dean of Students
- Cost of testing would be \$12,000-\$15,000 per year. Susquehanna Health System is willing and able to conduct drug testing.

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 20, 2010, at 3:30 p.m., at the District Service Center.

4. Adjournment @ 4:50 p.m.

Sheila Yates, Chair