



**Safety Task Force
Minutes
April 3, 2007
7:00 – 8:30**

All task force members were present with exception of Asaf Salloum and Tina Deutsch.

Board Co-Chair, Joanne Jackson, welcomed everyone and noted there were 2 additional committee members representing each of the high schools. She introduced Dieruff student Katherine Bardales and Allen student Jeremy White.

Board Co-Chair, Erlinda Agron asked the committee members to review the minutes and offer any changes if appropriate. Minutes were then approved.

Ms. Agron called for nominations for a parent co-chair. David Roth and Shalon Easterling were nominated. The vote indicated a tie, thus both parents will serve as parent co-chairs.

Gretchen Saul introduced Assistant Chief Joseph Hanna and gave a brief overview of APD's support of the Allentown School District.

Assistant Chief Hanna discussed the following:

1. APD recognizes the importance of and supports School Resource Officers. He noted there is one officer in training and he will be assigned according to need.
2. APD collaborates with ASD on all safety procedures and policies. Control and maintenance remains with ASD.
3. The Memorandum of Understanding has undergone revision by ASD and APD staff and will go before the Board in May.
4. He acknowledged there are gangs in Allentown and credited the district's willingness to fully disclose issues to APD. He stated that ASD and APD have a strong relationship and communicate openly.
5. DARE and GREAT programs were initiated in 1999 and always successful, however, NCLB Act had a detrimental effect on these programs because of limited time in the school day.

6. 2006-07 has been difficult year for the adult crossing guards. The Allentown Police Department is hiring crossing guards, and if anyone is interested they should contact Sgt. Milios at 610-437-7741 or stop by the Human Resources Department on the 2nd floor of City Hall (435 Hamilton Street) to fill out an application. Often there are corners that must be covered by APD officers, which removes them from patrol during a critical time of the day. Now the city has contracted with the Lehigh Law Enforcement Officers to help cover corners – thus there will be uniformed/trained officers on the corners.
7. Camp Blue Line is a very popular summer program for ASD's 5th grades, and will include 4th graders this year. Also, have PAL bowling, basketball, football, and fireworks. Gerald Monahan scholarship awarded to a low income household student preparing for a career in law enforcement.
8. APD is Planning May visitations by Sergeant Guido to 3rd grade classrooms regarding summer safety. Sgt. Guido's phone number is 610-437-7565 should you want to know more about the summer camp and/or safety presentations.
9. APD officers provide gang awareness training for ASD teachers.

Ms. Jackson then opened the floor for questions from the task force.

What is the Memorandum of Understanding?

An agreement between the district and police department with guidelines that mandate how specific situations are to be handled, how police are contacted and how they respond to emergency and non-emergency situations.

If there's a complaint about an adult crossing guard who should be contacted?

Call Sergeant Milios.

What is being done about the William Allen High School student issues that evolve in the neighborhood after school?

Joe Hanna indicated there is a great deal of information that comes from the neighborhood and the school during a day. He then allocates additional officers to patrol that time of day. Also, indicated the ASD security officers often leave the school grounds and assist with problems in the school's neighborhoods.

Ms. Jackson then asked the committee to break into groups of 3 or 4 choosing a policy to review:

- Student discipline #218
- Suspension/expulsion #233
- Weapons #218.1
- Substance abuse #227
- Use of tobacco products #222

Each group was to address the following questions.

- What is unclear?
- What are the major points of this policy?
- Anything else?

After 30 minutes Ms. Jackson asked the group to reconvene and each small group to give a 2 minute summary of their questions/concerns about the policy.

Ms. Jackson acknowledged the enormity of the task and additional policies to examine. Also, she acknowledged future agendas may need to be reframed.

The committee was asked to read the article *Schools Face Difficult Challenges from Cyberbullies* before the next meeting and review Board Policy # 250 regarding bullying on page 19 of the Code of Conduct.

Ms. Agron announced the Police and Resident Community Relations Workshop will be held on Saturday, April 21, 9-4:00 at Sacred Heart Hospital Conference Room, 2nd Floor. Safety Task Force members are to contact Olga Negrón, 610-437-7698 if interested.

Ms. Jackson thanked everyone for their participation and attendance.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.



Safety Task Force Policy Analysis – April 3, 2007

1. What is unclear?
2. What are the major points of this policy?
3. Anything else?

Policy #218 – Student Discipline	Policy #233 – Suspensions/Expulsions	Policy #218.1 – Weapons
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Student conduct impacts student learning. 2. Students’ responsibilities include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate school behavior • Respect the rights 7 Property of others • Obey authority figures • Preserve order necessary <p><i>Hold parents (guardians) accountable for son/daughter’s behavior.</i></p> <p align="center"><u>Readability</u></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Less legal language, more parent friendly. Too vague. 2. 3rd paragraph unclear – principal/person in charge may suspend for an infraction (inconsistency) <i>See example below.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level 1 infraction – gum chewing (suspension) • Level 2 infraction – fighting – no suspension 3. Need clear rules about suspension all on the same page – no flipping back and forth. Shorten and clarify for parents. 4. Would like to see/change the references from policy 235 to conduct classifications that lists the infractions. 5. Clarify/Specify Level II infractions. a. Repeated occurrences (How many before a suspension is warranted?) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SOP (standard operating procedures) for all conduct and at the same time summarize the code of conduct. 2. Code of Conduct “for 3. dummies.”

Policy #227 – Substance Abuse – page 12

What is unclear?

1. Where is policy 210?
2. The language is difficult to understand, too much jargon, print too small
3. Penalties are ambiguous.

Major Points

1. Cannot use or possess on schools grounds, at school events or in school vehicles
2. This includes alcohol, illegal substances, anabolic steroids, look-a-like substances, & paraphernalia.

What about huffing?

Policy #222 – Use of Tobacco Products – page 13

1. Add to the first line “In recognition of the unlawful act and of the hazards ... and the unlawful use...
2. Perhaps definition of tobacco products: include clove and herbal cigarettes, chew, nicotine patches?
3. Refer page 3 conduct classification at the end of the enforcement section.
4. We have never noticed signs on the buildings (that are referenced in the policy).

Enforcement

1. A student possessing or using any tobacco product in violation of this policy shall be **cited** and prosecuted for a summary offense.
2. Define convicted.