



LEARN. LEAD. ACHIEVE. SUCCEED.

dallasd.com · 2000 Conyngham Avenue, Dallas, PA 18612

Phone: 570-675-5201 · Fax: 570-674-7295

Work Session/Regular Meeting

Dr. Thomas J. Duffy, Superintendent

January 13, 2025

Thomas Duffy 1/13/25

Education Updates

Our 01.10.25 Act 80 Inservice agendas included a presentation of Amplify Science Curriculum Materials (related to STEELS Standards exploration), Core Knowledge Language Arts and Literacy Curriculum (related to Structured Literacy exploration), Essential Elements and Zearn Math alignment and mid-year SPM reporting at the K-5 level. Secondary agendas included the review of student performance data from benchmark assessments, formulation of intervention groups (HS), and LIU 18 supported training related to specially designed instruction for students with special needs included in the regular education classroom at the MS level.

Before and after school tutoring information will be communicated over the next few weeks at each level with an emphasis on Math and ELA. Students will be recommended based on assessment data and teacher input. Parents and families are encouraged to reach out to building principals with questions about tutoring and intervention opportunities for students.

Our K-12 School Counselors Department meeting held in January allowed for a review of the changing role of school counselors, to consider our student services, and identify areas for development within the department in the context of our Comprehensive Plan.

The 2025-2028 Comprehensive Planning process continues with committee goal development input. Goal topics being discussed included overall wellness, restorative practices, organizational health, curriculum and assessment alignment, special education, and technology. Additional state reporting including curriculum and assessment, Gifted Education, the Educator Induction Program, and Professional Development are being updated. Timeline for completion of the Comprehensive Plan will include a review period beginning February 7, an overview at the February 10 school board meeting and recommended vote at the March 10 school board meeting.

Policy Updates

Policy 005. Organization was updated to reflect the United States Court of Appeals Third Circuit decision in *Montemuro v. Jim Thorpe Area School District*. In this case, the court found that Pennsylvania law establishes that board officers have a property interest in their job as an officer of the board and, as such, cannot be removed from such office without notice of the reason for removal and due process. The section in the policy regarding Officers was revised to appropriately address this court decision. The section in the policy regarding Appointments was revised to generally state that removal of an appointee will be based on the terms of a contract or provisions of applicable law.

Policy 308. Employment Contract/Board Resolution - This policy was updated to include a definition and guidelines addressing resignation from employment. Resignations were previously addressed in administrative regulations. At the request of members, PSBA has developed language outlining submission and acceptance of resignations for the board-level

policy, including the board's role in this process and in delegating authority to the Superintendent. The policy language addresses the School Code requirement for professional employees to submit a resignation notice at least sixty (60) days prior to the resignation's effective date.

Policy 823. Opioid Antagonist - This policy was formerly titled Naloxone. [Act 135 of 2022](#) updated the definitions and terminology for drug overdose medication and the state statute now uses the term opioid antagonist. The definition of Naloxone was replaced with the definition of opioid antagonist and the term was changed throughout the policy. Minor language revisions were made to clarify the role of the school nurse in managing building-level administration, maintenance and stocking of opioid antagonist medication in schools. The policy guide includes language requiring any school employee who may have custody of or administer an opioid antagonist to successfully complete an online PA Department of Health training program about recognizing opioid-related overdoses, administering opioid antagonist and promptly seeking medical attention for drug overdoses. [35 P.S. 780-113.8](#) includes provisions for immunity of persons who "act in good faith and with reasonable care" in administration of an opioid antagonist.