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**Lacey Township School District Board of Education
Policy Committee Meeting
Co-Curricular, Safety & Security, LTASA**

AGENDA - September 11, 2024 @ 4:15 pm

Jack Conaty, **Chairperson**
Kim Klaus
Dan Bell

Skip Peters, Alternate
William W. Zylinski - Acting Superintendent

Discussion

- Cell phone policy

New Policy/Regulations for Review and/or Discussion:

- P & R 3160 - Physical Examination (M) - Revised
- P & R 4160 - Physical Examination (M) - Revised

The New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) updated their Guidance for Tuberculosis (TB) Testing in New Jersey Schools (2023 Guidance). The NJDOH indicated this update limits TB screening in New Jersey schools for teachers/other employees and only those students who are at the highest risk for TB infection. The revisions in the 2023 Guidance recommend limiting or reducing some of the screening requirements from the 2016 Guidance regarding students coming from other countries and circumstances when a new staff member should be given a TB test. Strauss Esmay is recommending Policy and Regulation Guides 3160 and 4160 be revised to state the "Board of Education will follow the current NJDOH Guidance for Tuberculosis (TB) Testing in New Jersey Schools" so these Policy and Regulation Guides do not need to be revised every time the Guidance is updated by the NJDOH. School nurses are familiar with the details of the 2023 Guidance. Any reference to specific requirements of the 2016 Guidance included in Regulation Guides 3160 and 4160 has been removed. Policy and Regulation Guides 3160 and 4160 have been updated to indicate a district will comply with the most recent NJDOH Guidance.

A district that does not want to comply with the NJDOH 2023 Guidance should review any proposed revisions with district nurses and the school physician before incorporating any changes from the 2023 Guidance into Policy and Regulation Guides 3160 and 4160.

There are a few minor revisions in the optional Section H. of Regulation Guides 3160 and 4160 regarding pre-employment drug testing. As a result of the recreational use of marijuana/cannabis being legalized in New Jersey, marijuana is no longer a controlled dangerous substance under New Jersey law, N.J.S.A. 2C:35-2. Therefore, pre-employment testing for “controlled dangerous substances” as defined in N.J.S.A. 2C:35-2 would not include testing for the presence of THC (the principal psychoactive constituent of cannabis). However, a district that wants to require the pre-employment screening for drugs to include screening for THC should specifically indicate the pre-employment screening will include screening for THC in their Policy and Regulation. A Board should also consult their Board Attorney regarding the impact of a positive test result for THC from a prospective employee. The requirements of a health history and health screening in Section B. of Regulation Guides 3160 and 4160 were based on prior administrative code that indicated the minimum requirements for the pre-employment physical examination. These requirements may now be determined by the district and may be revised by the district accordingly. N.J.A.C. 6A:32-6.2(a) and QSAC Personnel Indicator 4.b. require a Board to adopt written policies and procedures for the physical examination of candidates for employment. Therefore, Policy and Regulation Guides 3160 and 4160 are **MANDATED** and require Board approval.

- R 5200 - Attendance (M) - Revised

On January 16, 2024, legislation was enacted to permit New Jersey public school students from grades six through twelve one State-excused absence each school year to attend a civic event for the purpose of recording attendance for the school register. School districts are permitted to provide additional excused absences for the purpose of tracking attendance locally. Parents of students seeking an excused absence for attendance at civic events must submit a signed written notice at least five school days prior to the event, along with any required documentation specified by the school district to satisfy the criteria for an excused absence. The Commissioner of Education will provide guidance to school districts regarding absences for civic events. This legislation does not require revisions to Policy Guide 5200. Regulation Guide 5200 has been updated to include the provision of a State-excused absence for attendance at a civic event, the definition of a civic event, and the required procedure for approval of such an absence. Regulation Guide 5200 has also been revised to include an option in Section D.1. addressing whether or not a student will be required to provide a written statement for an absence longer than a district-designated number of consecutive school days. The district should designate the number of school days where the blank is provided. The district may then select the option “may” if they would like to handle this issue on a case-by-case basis or “will” if they would like this to be a fixed rule in the district. Regulation Guide 5200 is mandated as N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.6 requires a Board to adopt and implement written policies and procedures regarding the attendance of students. Regulation Guide 5200 is **MANDATED**

- P 5337 - Service Animals - New for Lacey
- P 5337.1 - Therapy Dog - New for Lacey

Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), as amended by the ADA Amendments Act of 2008, requires public school districts to permit the use of service animals by individuals with disabilities who require such support. Policy Guide 5337 has been revised to include N.J.S.A. 18A:46-13.3 “Permitted Access for Service Animals.” This New Jersey statute outlines the requirements addressing service animals in schools. The language in the statute is consistent with Federal rules regarding service animals; however, Strauss Esmay believes it is important to incorporate the State law where appropriate. Policy Guide 5337 is recommended to provide guidance to a Board if a request is made to utilize a service animal on school grounds. Policy Guide 5337 is **RECOMMENDED**.

- P 5860- Safety Patrol (M) - New for Lacey
- R 5860 - Rules for Safety Patrol Members (M) - New for Lacey

- P & R 8467 - Firearms & Weapons (M) - Revised

*Policy Guide 8467 has been revised to provide some additional details included in the administrative code regarding student possession and/or use of firearms and weapons on school grounds. Regulation Guide 8467 has been completely rewritten to align with the current language in the statute and administrative code, mainly N.J.S.A. 2C:39-1 – Definitions, N.J.S.A. 2C:39-5 – Unlawful possession of weapons, N.J.A.C. 6A:16-6.3 – Reporting students or staff members to law enforcement authorities, and N.J.A.C. 6A:16-6.4 – Handling of alcohol or other drugs, firearms, and other items. The title of Policy and Regulation Guides 8467 has been revised from “Weapons” to “Firearms and Weapons.” Several provisions in the revised Policy Guide 8467 are being relocated to better align with the statutes and administrative code. The revisions are not a result of any new or revised statute or administrative code and there are no new or additional requirements of school districts in the updates made to Policy and Regulation Guides 8467. The reporting to law enforcement and the handling of firearms and dangerous weapons requirements in Policy and Regulation Guides 8467 are aligned with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-6.3 and N.J.A.C. 6A:16-6.4. However, school officials should also consult the current Memorandum of Agreement Between Education and Law Enforcement for additional guidance in these areas. N.J.A.C. 6A:16-6.1(a)1. requires a Board adopt and implement policies and procedures in matters related to firearms and weapons. Therefore, Policy and Regulation Guides 8467 are **MANDATED** and should be adopted by the Board.*

- P 9181- Volunteer Athletic Coaches and Co-Curricular Activity Advisors/Assistants - Revised

Last sentence in the policy is revised to remove “to be reimbursed by the board”.

Co-Curricular - No agenda items to discuss

Safety and Security - No agenda items to discuss

LTASA - No agenda items to discuss

Other - No agenda items to discuss

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 9, 2024 @ 4:15 pm