Policy and Legislation Committee Meeting

Tuesday, September 8, 2026 8:00 AM
North Hills Administration Board Room, 135 Sixth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15229

A. **OPENING OF MEETING - Ms. Kozera**

A.1. Call to Order

A.2. Committee Member Comments

A.3. Approval of the Minutes

NORTH HILLS SCHOOL DISTRICT
POLICY & LEGISLATION COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2026
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING BOARD ROOM

Call to Order
The meeting was called to order by Ms. Kozera at 8:00 a.m.

Committee Members Present
Sandra Kozera, Allison Mathis and Ashley Stephens.

Also Present
Dr. Pat Mannarino and Tammy Swanson

Committee Member Comments
Ms. Kozera announced that effective July 1, 2026, the North Hills School District will begin using PSBA's new policy platform. This platform will serve as the district's official online resource for Board policies.

Policy Management – Dr. Pat Mannarino
The March & May 2026 PNN+ update required no changes, and the affected policies will be marked as reviewed and placed on the July 30, 2026 Board Meeting agenda:

810 – Transportation
221 – Dress and Grooming
325 – Dress and Grooming
236.1 – Threat Assessment
716 – Integrated Pest Management

The committee discussed Policy 873 – Employee Service Awards and agreed to revisit the policy during the 2026–2027 school year for further review and consideration.

State and Federal Legislation Advocacy:

Mrs. Mathis provided a legislative update on state education legislation. She reported that the bell-to-bell cell phone ban has passed the House of Representatives and is currently before the Senate Education Committee. The legislation is expected to pass in some form and may ultimately be included as part of the state budget package. However, the timeline for final action remains uncertain pending resolution of the state budget.

Mrs. Stephens reviewed several items on the federal legislative tracker. She noted that H.R. 899, the *Department of Education Termination Act*, has declined to an estimated one percent chance of enactment according to GovTrack. She further reported that H.R. 2616, the *Stopping Indoctrination and Protecting Kids Act*, is the only federal education bill that has made significant progress since the last committee meeting. The bill passed the House on May 20, 2026. If enacted, the legislation would require public elementary and middle schools, including schools serving grades five through eight, to obtain parental consent before changing a

student's gender markers, pronouns, or preferred name on school records or forms, or before providing sex-based accommodations such as access to locker rooms or restrooms. The requirements would apply as a condition of receiving certain federal education funds. The bill has now advanced to the Senate for consideration.

Public Comments
None

Adjournment
Announcement:
The next Policy & Legislation Committee meeting is scheduled for September 8, 2026 at 8:00 a.m. in the Board Room at the Administration Building.

The meeting adjourned at 8:22 a.m.

Tammy R. Swanson, School Board Secretary

B. **POLICY MANAGEMENT - Dr. Mannarino**

B.1. Policy Report

B.2. Policy 102 - Academic Standards - Revision

BOARD POLICY

102 Academic Standards

POLICY NUMBER	VERSION	DOCUMENT STATUS	WORKFLOW
102	v4.1	UNDER-REVIEW	Pending Board Review

PRINTED
9/3/2026

PURPOSE

The Board recognizes the importance of developing, assessing and expanding academic standards to challenge students to achieve at their highest level possible. To this end, the district shall establish rigorous academic standards in accordance with, and may expand upon, those adopted by the State Board of Education.

DEFINITION

Academic standards means what a student should know and be able to do at a specified grade level. For purposes of this policy, the term **academic standards** encompasses Pennsylvania Core Standards, **Pennsylvania Integrated Standards**, state academic standards and local academic standards.

AUTHORITY

The Board shall approve academic standards for district students to attain, in the following content areas:

1. English Language Arts (reading, writing, speaking and listening) - **PA Core Standards**.
2. Mathematics **- PA Core Standards**.
3. Science, Environment, Ecology, Technology and Engineering (Grades K-5) **- PA Integrated Standards**.
4. Science, Environment and Ecology (Grades 6-12).
5. Technology and Engineering (Grades 6-12).
6. Social Studies (history, geography, civics and government, economics) - to include **PA Core Standards** reading in history and social studies, and writing for history and social studies.
7. Arts and Humanities.
8. Career Education and Work.
9. Health, Safety and Physical Education.
10. Family and Consumer Sciences.

11. Personal Finance.

Guidelines

The district's curriculum shall be designed to provide students with the planned instruction needed to attain established academic standards. **Such standards require the incorporation of education on social media literacy.**

The district shall address social media literacy by providing instruction to students on the potential health and academic impacts, and safety and security concerns associated with social media use.

The district shall assess individual student attainment of established academic standards and provide assistance for students having difficulty attaining academic standards.

Students with disabilities may attain academic standards by completion of their Individualized Education Programs in accordance with law, regulations and Board policy.

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Legal References

No additional references listed.

B.3. Policy 204.1 - Virtual Attendance and Wellness Checks - New

BOARD POLICY

204.1 Virtual Attendance and Wellness Checks

POLICY NUMBER	VERSION	DOCUMENT STATUS	WORKFLOW
204.1	v3	UNDER-REVIEW	Pending Board Review

PRINTED
9/3/2026

PURPOSE

This policy establishes standards for wellness checks for students who receive academic instruction exclusively through the district's virtual instruction program for the full school year. Wellness checks are conducted to verify attendance and to facilitate the safety and well-being of students.

AUTHORITY

The Board directs the maintenance of a wellness check process that complies with state law.[1]

This policy shall be posted on the district's publicly accessible website.[1]

DEFINITION

District employee/representative – a district teacher, administrator or other district representative who is subject to mandated reporter requirements for child abuse under the Child Protective Services Law.[2][3]

DELEGATION OF RESPONSIBILITY

The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible for implementing this policy.

It shall be the responsibility of the designated district employee/representative to administer wellness check procedures in accordance with applicable law and this policy.

POLICY

Weekly Wellness Checks

Weekly wellness checks must be conducted for each student enrolled in the district's virtual instruction program who receives academic instruction exclusively through virtual means for the full school year.[1]

At least once during any week consisting of three (3) or more full or partial academic instructional days, a district employee/representative shall ensure that each student is visibly seen and communicated with in real time either, in person or through electronic means.[1]

Wellness Check Methods

Acceptable methods of conducting wellness checks include:[1]

1. A student turning on a webcam and the district employee/representative visibly seeing and communicating with the student during synchronous online instruction.
2. Virtual or face-to-face participation by the student in any of the following activities:
    a. Health screenings.
    b. Standardized testing.
    c. Advising sessions.
    d. Tutoring sessions.
    e. In person, school-sponsored activities chaperoned by a district employee/representative.

Failure to Complete a Required Wellness Check

Within one (1) school day after a student fails to complete a required wellness check, the district shall:[1]

1. Make documented and ongoing efforts to complete the required wellness check and contact the student's parent/guardian using at least two (2) different methods of communication; and
2. Provide written notice to the parent/guardian, in the parent's/guardian's preferred language, stating that the required wellness check has not been completed.

Wellness Review Conference

If the required wellness check is not completed within three (3) school days following the issuance of written notice, the district shall immediately schedule a wellness review conference to occur within one (1) school day. The wellness review conference may be conducted in person or through electronic means.[1]

The wellness review conference will be conducted to:[1]

1. Complete the required wellness check through real-time visual interaction with the student;
2. Reestablish communication with the student and the student’s parent/guardian; and
3. Identify interventions to facilitate future participation in wellness checks.

The wellness review conference shall convene as scheduled regardless of whether the student or the student’s parent/guardian participates.[1]

In-Person Wellness Check

If a student does not participate in the wellness review conference, the district will conduct an in-person wellness check within twenty-four (24) hours of the scheduled conference, even if this time period falls on a weekend or holiday.[1]

Reporting Requirements

Any district employee/representative who observes an indications of abuse, neglect or harm to a child during a wellness check, wellness review conference, or related contact, the district employee/representative is required to report the concerns in accordance with law and Board policy.[1][2][3]

The district shall maintain documentation sufficient to demonstrate compliance with this policy and applicable law.[1]

Such documentation shall be provided to the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) upon request.

Legal Footnotes

[1] **24 P.S. 1327.4**
LEGAL REFERENCE

[2] **23 Pa. C.S.A. 6301**
LEGAL REFERENCE

[3] **Pol. 806 — Child/Student Abuse**
POLICY REFERENCE

Legal References

No additional references listed.

B.4. Policy 273 - Club Sports - Revision

BOARD POLICY

273 Club Sports

POLICY NUMBER	ADOPTED	REVISED	VERSION
273	2/16/2009	6/13/2025	v1.2
DOCUMENT STATUS	**PRINTED**		
DRAFT	8/31/2026		

Proposed addition Proposed deletion

1. Purpose

The Board recognizes the desire of students to participate in sports that are not sanctioned by the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (P.I.A.A.)

2. Definition

For the purpose of this policy, a CLUB SPORT is a program for students in grades 7-12, and potentially age-appropriate students within grade 6 if the organization's governing body permitS and is organized and operated by members of the North Hills School District community for the benefit of resident students.

3. Authority

To the extent a Club Sport desires recognition by the North Hills School District and the privileges associated with such recognition, the Club Sport must adhere to those norms of operation that apply to school-sponsored interscholastic programs and that reflect and support the District's educational mission.

Establishment of a New Club Sport

The Board appreciates the diverse interests of our student population. It is expected that new recreational pursuits will arise over time and students seeking club status for sports should have a procedure to follow and criteria to meet in order to establish a new Club Sport. A representative from a prospective Club Sport is required to submit a

proposal for the establishment of a new Club Sport to the Athletic Director and High School Principal at least 6 months prior to the commencement of that sport's regular season. The proposal must include:

1. Proof club has obtained a not-for-profit status
2. Organization Bylaws of parental board
3. Act 24 (PDE Arrest or Conviction Form), Act 34 (PA State Police Clearance), Act 151 (PA Child Abuse History), Act 114 (Federal Bureau of Investigation(FBI) report) clearances for all coaches. *For residents of 10 years or more in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, they may opt for the Volunteer Clearance Exemption Form (see attachment).
4. Operating Budget
5. League information including governing body information and member school participants
    a. New Club Sports must participate in an organized league with a minimum of five (5) other teams representing schools within the geographical boundaries of P.I.A.A. District 7 (W.P.I.A.L.)
6. Player roster that includes student name, grade, and address
7. Additional rules and regulations for student participation
8. Lettering requirements for Junior High, Junior Varsity, and Varsity participants

The Board reserves the right to deny club sport status to any organization should it deem the activity to present issues not in the best interest of the District.

Any new club will enter a 5-year probationary period to determine the sustainability of the program. During the probationary period, the Club Sport will be authorized to:

1. Use the North Hills School District name
2. Use the North Hills School District colors
3. Use the North Hills School District moniker "Indians"
4. Inclusion in student yearbook
5. Participation in homecoming and similar events
6. Right to award a Junior High, Junior Varsity, and Varsity Letter to students who have met lettering requirements

During the 5-year probationary period, applications for continued probationary status must be made to the Athletic Director and High School Principal for administrative review of compliance annually by April 1st to maintain probationary status. This report must include:

1. Proof of not-for-profit status
2. Act 24 (PDE Arrest or Conviction Form), Act 34 (PA State Police Clearance), Act 151 (PA Child Abuse History), Act 114 (Federal Bureau of Investigation(FBI) report) clearances for all coaches. *For residents of 10 years or more in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, they may opt for the Volunteer Clearance Exemption Form (see attachment).
3. Operating Budget
4. League information including governing body information and member school participants

5. Season summary including contest results
6. Student participation summary including the number of students participating at each grade level
7. Organization Bylaws of parental board
8. Additional rules and regulations for student participation

Failure to meet the April 1st deadline and/or incomplete reports will result in the loss of recognition of probationary club sport status and the privileges associated with it. Club Sports that occur during the spring sports season must submit items 1,2,3,4,7 and 8 above by the April 1st deadline and must submit items 5 and 6 above no later than two (2) weeks of their final contest.

If the Club Sport completes the 5-year probationary period, the Club President may petition the School Board to receive full club sport status and funding for the upcoming season as part of their April 1st annual report.

If the Club Sport becomes sanctioned by the W.P.I.A.L. or P.I.A.A., the North Hills School District is not obligated to change their status to one of an Interscholastic Sport offering.

If a sanctioned W.P.I.A.L. or P.I.A.A., Interscholastic Sport is no longer sanctioned by the governing body, the North Hills School District will continue to fund that program as an Interscholastic Sport offering for a period of four (4) years. After the 4 year period, they will be considered a Club Sport with all requirements and privileges as outlined in this policy.

The Board reserves the right to review, renew and/or withdraw a Club Sport's probationary status at any time.

Organizations Recognized as Club Sports

Club sport programs that have successfully completed the probationary period, and have been approved for club sport status by the Board, must have their Club President annually submit a written application for continued recognition to the Athletic Director and High School Principal by April 1st for administrative review of compliance with the following criteria:

1. Proof of not-for-profit status
2. Act 24 (PDE Arrest or Conviction Form), Act 34 (PA State Police Clearance), Act 151 (PA Child Abuse History), Act 114 (Federal Bureau of Investigation(FBI) report) clearances for all coaches. *For residents of 10 years or more in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, they may opt for the Volunteer Clearance Exemption Form (see attachment).
3. Operating Budget
4. League information including governing body information and member school participants
5. Season summary including contest results
6. Student participation summary including the number of students participating at each grade level
7. Organization Bylaws of parental board
8. Additional rules and regulations for student participation

Incomplete applications will not be granted. Failure to comply with the above requirements will result in the loss of recognition of club sport status and the privileges associated with it. Club Sports that occur during the spring sports season must submit items 1,2,3,4,7 and 8 above by the April 1st deadline and must submit items 5 and 6 above no later than two (2) weeks of their final contest.

The Athletic Director and High School Principal shall provide their recommendation for approval or rejection of the request to the Superintendent for subsequent presentation to the Board. The Board will then review and approve or reject the request.

Privileges for Organizations Recognized as Club Sports

1. Upon receiving Board recognition as a North Hills School District Club Sport, an organization will receive the following privileges:

a. Use of the North Hills School District name

b. Use of the North Hills School District colors

c. Use of the North Hills School District moniker "Indians"

d. Inclusion in student yearbook

e. Participation in homecoming and similar events

f. Right to award a Junior High, Junior Varsity, and Varsity Letter to students who have met lettering requirements

g. Qualify for the funding formula for Club Sports:

- Funds from the District will equal 10% of the Club Sport's operating expenses in the following areas:

1. Transportation
2. Supplies and Equipment
3. Coaching Salaries
4. Facility Rental/Usage Charges
5. League Fees
6. Officiating

- A Club Sport program that has 25 or more participants in grades 7-12 shall receive an additional $10 per student participant in grades 7-12.

2. At the discretion of the Board, the failure to comply with North Hills School District rules and regulations, including those requirements set forth above, may result in a revocation of recognition and corresponding privileges and/or denial of a subsequent annual request for recognition.

3. The Board reserves the right to review, renew and/or withdraw a Club Sport's status and/or funding at any time.

Requirements for Club Sports (including clubs on probationary status)

1. Club Sports agree to follow the same calendar and cancellation policies of the North Hills School District.

2. Club Sports must follow the same student-athlete eligibility criteria and requirements established by the North Hills School District for participation in school-sponsored interscholastic-athletic programs, including, but not limited to, attendance and academic requirements. Students subject to disciplinary action by the School District shall be prohibited from participation in Club Sports during the same period and to the same extent as such students are prohibited from participating in school-sponsored interscholastic-athletic programs.

3. Practices and contests must be supervised by the approved coaching staff with applicable clearances.

4. Lettering criteria must be approved by the Athletic Director.

5. Programs wishing to use school facilities must complete a Use of Facilities form and pay applicable fees.

6. At the request of the North Hills School District, the Club must furnish a certificate of insurance naming the North Hills School District as an additional insured for liability coverage of at least $1,000,000. Such policies must provide coverage for any occurrences during the school year for which recognition has been granted.

Legal References

No additional references listed.

B.5. Policy 803 - School Calendar - Revision

BOARD POLICY

803 School Calendar

POLICY NUMBER	VERSION	DOCUMENT STATUS	WORKFLOW
803	v4	UNDER-REVIEW	Pending Board Review

PRINTED
9/3/2026

PURPOSE

The Board recognizes that preparation of an annual school calendar is necessary for the efficient operation of the district and communication with students, staff, parents/guardians and the school community.

AUTHORITY

The Board shall determine annually the days and the hours when the schools will be in session for instructional purposes, in accordance with state law and regulations. This may include, as appropriate, activities qualifying as instructional days or hours under the direction of certified school employees for fulfilling the minimum required days or hours of instruction under law, regulations and state guidance.[1][2][3][4][5][6][7][8][9]

The Board reserves the right to alter the school calendar when it is in the best interests of the district, including in cases of emergency, in accordance with applicable law and regulations. The Board shall take action to establish temporary provisions in cases of emergency, in accordance with law, and shall document such actions with the PA Department of Education when required.[2][5][6][7][9][11][12][13][14]
Temporary provisions established in accordance with law may include but are not limited to: [1][2][5][6][7][8][9][12][13][15]

1. Reducing the length of time of daily instruction for courses and classes.
2. Implementing remote and other alternative methods of delivering instruction under the direction of certified school employees.

Each year, prior to finalizing the school calendar, the Board must discuss the use or potential use of flexible instructional days and remote or virtual instructional days at a public Board meeting.[7] [14]

DELEGATION OF RESPONSIBILITY

The Superintendent shall annually prepare a school calendar for Board consideration.

The Superintendent or designee shall document alterations to the school calendar and any temporary provisions in accordance with law, regulations, guidance from the PA Department of Education and Board policy.[7][14] [15]

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Legal Footnotes

[1] 24 P.S. 133
LEGAL REFERENCE

[2] 24 P.S. 1501
LEGAL REFERENCE

[3] 24 P.S. 1502
LEGAL REFERENCE

[4] 24 P.S. 1503
LEGAL REFERENCE

[5] 24 P.S. 1504
LEGAL REFERENCE

[6] 24 P.S. 1505
LEGAL REFERENCE

[7] 24 P.S. 1506
LEGAL REFERENCE

[8] 22 PA Code 11.1
LEGAL REFERENCE

[9] 22 PA Code 11.2
LEGAL REFERENCE

[11] 24 P.S. 520
LEGAL REFERENCE

[12] 24 P.S. 520.1
LEGAL REFERENCE

[13] 24 P.S. 1501.3
LEGAL REFERENCE

[14] Pol. 006
LEGAL REFERENCE

[15] Pol. 805 — Emergency Preparedness and Response
POLICY REFERENCE

Legal References

No additional references listed.

B.6. Policy 873 - Employee Service Awards - Discussion

BOARD POLICY

873 Employee Service Award

POLICY NUMBER	ADOPTED	REVISED	VERSION
873	1/24/1994	6/13/2025	v1
DOCUMENT STATUS	**PRINTED**		
ACTIVE	8/31/2026		

The Board is cognizant and appreciative of the dedication of employees as reflected in both the quality and length of service to the school community. The stability and productivity of any organization is due in large measure to the long and loyal service of its members. The Board wishes to acknowledge such dedication and loyalty.

It shall be the policy of this Board to provide a service emblem to each employee with at least 10 years of service; such emblem to be awarded at service plateaus of 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 and 35 years.

Legal References

No additional references listed.

B.7. A motion to add Policy & Legislation Items to the Legislation Board Meeting

C. **STATE & FEDERAL LEGISLATION ADVOCACY - Ms. Kozera**

C.1. State Legislation Report - Mrs. Mathis

C.2. Federal Legislation Report - Mrs. Stephens

D. **MEETING CLOSING - Ms. Kozera**

D.1. Public Comment

E. **ADJOURNMENT - Ms. Kozera**

E.1. Announcements

E.2. Adjournment