POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE

Mike McDonough, Deputy Superintendent
Friday, October 23, 2026, 9:00 AM Central Office

Hilliard City School District
Operations Department

Committee Members

Brian Perry, Board of Education
Kelley Arnold, Board of Education
Melissa Swearingen, Treasurer/CFO
Mike McDonough, Deputy Superintendent
William Warfield, Assistant Superintendent
Stacie Raterman, Communications Director
Jacob Grantier, Director of Measurement, Intervention & Enrichment
Erin Dooley, Director of Secondary Education
Herb Higginbotham, Director of Elementary Education
Jamie Lennox, Special Education Director
Matt Middleton, Principal Hilliard Darby HS
Katherine Hueter, Principal Hilliard Weaver MS
Matt Trombitas, Principal Hilliard Station Sixth Grade
Livi Constantinovich, Principal Darby Creek Elementary
Lauren Barkdull, Principal Horizon Elementary
Angie Rader, HEA Representative

SUMMARY

This committee meets quarterly each school year. One of the objectives of this committee is to study each issue thoroughly making sure we have appropriate policies that reflect the mission and vision of the Hilliard City School District.

The Policy Review Committee considers all proposed new policies, revisions of current policies and/or rescinding of a current policy before being presented to the Superintendent for submission to the Board of Education. Two readings at two separate meetings shall normally be required before a new or revised policy may be adopted. Action to adopt will take place at a subsequent third meeting. However, the Board does have the option of voting for adoption at the second meeting.

The following is a summary of the issues and policies discussed at the meeting on October 23, 2026.

Public Participation

None

Review of Policies/Regulations/Exhibits – OSBA SEPTEMBER 2026 PDQ

SAM ACT IMPACTS EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES
IGD – Cocurricular and Extracurricular Activities
IGDJ – Interscholastic Athletics

Mike McDonough explained that our policy IGD is slightly different from the OSBA sample policy. We have a few more things in our policy than OSBA, but we do have everything that is required by law. We will make the changes you see there titling some of the sections. If you are not familiar with this, the SAM Act, this is a new law that allows students in neighboring districts to participate in athletics in another district if their district does not offer it. Let's say we don't offer hockey, but Coffman does. If a Darby student wanted to go play hockey at Coffman, then the Dublin superintendent and the Hilliard superintendent first would have to sign off on that, but under this law, they would be able to do so. This is law, so we have to put it in policy. That does not mean we would ever authorize any of this to happen.

The other portion of this that is a little more interesting and could potentially impact us is this would allow for students from a multi-high school district to change high schools that they go to should their high school within their district not offer a particular sport. Right now, all three of our high schools offer everything the same, but who knows, if numbers change in a certain building or if new sports get added that could change.

Where I could potentially see this impacting us, and it would be a far-fetched idea, but let's say for whatever reason, I am just making up a sport, boys lacrosse at Darby didn't have enough kids come out one year, those kids could, rather than not being able to play, could technically transfer if we knew that before the school year. There are a lot of ifs in this too, but that would be something where we could potentially use it internally. I don't foresee that ever happening. That's essentially the SAM Act in a nutshell and we do need to add this.

The portions that you see afterwards that are permissive, and this has been before us before, and we chose not to add these things. The permissive information addresses more, students that are non-residents. We have always had in law that if you are a resident within our district, but maybe go to a parochial school or you are homeschooled, you can participate in athletics with us. This says if you are a non-resident, we don't typically do that. We don't want folks from outside of our district taking away opportunities from kids in our district. Long story short, we will add the green, leave the permissive alone, and move on.

Matt Trombitas said just out of curiosity, middle school gymnastics, we don't have a gymnastics team affiliated with the school, there is Hilliard gymnastics. If a kid wanted to go to Dublin because Dublin Sells has a good gymnastics team, how would that play out?

Mike McDonough said I don't typically think this would happen at the middle school level but in theory, since we do have Hilliard gymnastics, when they go to compete, there might only be 12 kids on the whole middle school gymnastics team but when it comes time for the scores, there might be two kids from Heritage. Heritage's team score is not going to be, that's how it has always been here for us. There is one coach overseeing everything, but they compete in three different schools. Matt Trombitas said, so that would be the same thing for swimming. Mike McDonough said yes.

Jamie Lennox asked is this just for sports or is it all extracurriculars? Mike McDonough said, good thing you said something. They talk about sports, they use the word sports, but it applies to band, theatre, those types of things as well. It applies to any extracurricular that you would offer within your district, but not a co-curricular. We could technically use band as a co-curricular and not allow it.

IGDJ is another policy related to extracurriculars and interscholastic athletics. We need to add that section to IGDJ as well, but I would caution us on the permissive information.

HB 455 REVISES BOARD VACANCY PROVISIONS
BBE – Unexpired Term Fulfillment (Board Vacancy)

Mike McDonough said there was some change into filling board vacancy provisions. I don't really see any issue with this, but I will defer to our board members to see their thoughts.

Ms. Arnold said on that one, they are just expanding the range on it. Mike McDonough said from 30 to 45 days. Ms. Arnold said basically what I am following, the provision that would have affected a prior board member in terms of service, so no big deals there.

Mr. Perry said the only thing I would consider adding in addition to that, U.S. armed forces, Ohio national guard, there's also the one that Brian was a part of, like the Ohio State Militia and Naval Militias that is also protected by Ohio law. I will figure out what that is. Mike McDonough said I will put a note here that you are going to come up with that.

UPDATED DEFINITION OF PARENT
JECB – Admission of Nonresident Students

Mike McDonough said this next one, the legislature defined the term "parent" for us. That's what we are updating on this policy.

REPEAL OF CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL MANDATE REPORT
EBBA – First Aid
EFF – Food Sale Standards
JECBB – Interdistrict Open Enrollment
JECBD – Intradistrict Open Enrollment
JFCF – Hazing and Bullying (Harassment, Intimidation and Dating Violence)
JHCA – Physical Examinations of Students
JP – Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (Restraint and Seclusion)

Mike McDonough said there was annually a consolidated school mandate report that we needed to submit to ODE by November 30. We still have to do all those things, but they have just removed the reporting feature. Any policy that referenced the consolidated school mandate report, we are going to remove that reference from that policy. We still have to do all of the things, we could still get audited I guess technically on those things, but we don't have to check the yes or no boxes on November 30th.

SB 19 CREATES NEW REQUIREMENT FOR PATRIOTIC YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS
KKAA – Patriotic Youth Organization ***(New Policy)***

Mike McDonough said senate bill 19 creates new requirements for patriotic youth organizations. This is not a policy that we currently have. This is state law; it is not a required policy, so the question is, do we want to adopt it or not? My suggestion would be to adopt it for one reason and one reason only. It gives us a reference tool when groups want to enter our buildings that clearly spells out what types of groups are allowed. I could see other groups that we currently have some affiliations with that would try to use this language to do other things, and that's not something that I think any of us want. I think we should add the policy, so we have a clear reference to the types of groups that are allowed to have the 10 minutes before students or come in at lunchtime. Herb has worked closely with Scouting America and from everything he has indicated, they have been good to work with. They understand the law. They are not trying to abuse it. They are just trying to get more word out to kids.

Ms. Arnold said I would recommend, it does list the 36 U.S.C. various codes, putting a parenthetical for what those actual organizations' names are, just to make it clear for anybody, instead of having to go in and look them up. Mike McDonough asked do you have a recommendation for what that would be? Ms. Arnold said after the second paragraph, where it says 36 U.S.C. 30101, that is Big Brothers and Big Sisters. List each one out so it's very clear for anybody who is quick glancing at it. Mr. Perry said I think that is a good idea. Mike McDonough said that is a good idea, I like that. Ms. Arnold said other than that, no other changes.

FISCAL CONSIDERATIONS
DJF-R – Purchasing Procedures
DLC-R – Expense Reimbursements

Mike McDonough said this next policy, they are upping, for federal purchases there are very strict guidelines on when you have to do certain things in terms of bidding and those types of things that are different from the normal general fund dollars, they have upped some of the thresholds for those. In that past, anything that was $10,000 or more, we were using federal funds. An example of that would be Aramark. If we were going to buy cafeteria tables through Aramark, those were over $10,000. When you buy a set of cafeteria tables, it typically does. We had to follow very strict guidelines. They have upped that to $15,000 for micro purchases and $350,000 for what they call simplified acquisitions and so on and so forth. Nothing major there that impacts this crew but does give us a little bit more wiggle room on the operational side of things so those are good.

This next policy, DLC-R, if you recall when we met last time, Melissa had some language changes for a lot of our credit card information. The portion in green that you see in letter E, where it talks about the board recognizes, we added something very similar to our credit card policies the last time we met, actually a little bit stronger language than this. We are going to take that language, I believe it was from policy DJH and DJI, we are going to take the language we added last time, essentially the same information as that, just a little bit stronger language that applied more to us. We are going to add that to DLC-R to be consistent and stay ahead of the game.

HB 455 PERMITS REQUIRED NOTICES TO BE POSTED ONLINE
EEACC – Student Conduct on District Managed Transportation
JF – Student Rights and Responsibilities
JFC – Student Conduct (Zero Tolerance)
JFCK – Use of Cellphones and Electronic Communications Devices by Students

Mike McDonough said this next section of policies, there are lots of things that we were required to post in the main office, such as code of conduct, transportation information, conduct on transportation, all that stuff. We are now being given the flexibility to post on our website in lieu of the office. In each of these policies, EEACC, JF, JFC and JFCK, we are adding language around “or on the district website” so that we can be in compliance. All of the things that we are required to post are already in both places, so that gives us a little bit more flexibility and grace should they fall off the wall in the office we have them on our website too.

DISTRICT RECORDS COMMISSION CHANGES
EHA – District Records Commission, Records Retention and Disposal

This last policy, we are adding “or their designees” after the Board President, the Treasurer and the Superintendent for the records commission.