



**SOUTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS**

**Education Committee Meeting  
HS Faculty Lunch Room  
3/22/2010  
6:00 PM**

***Minutes***

**I. OPENING PROCEDURES**

A. Time: 6:00 PM

B. *Recording of attendance by the Secretary:*

Present: Patti Mohr, Corrine Gunkle, Bill Hayes, Joseph Liberati, Leah Christman, Joan Takacs and Ken Jordan

Visitors: Karen Przelomski, Beverly Marant, Debbie Mettan, Kathie Parsons, and Tom McLaughlin

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES from January 2010 meeting: Corrine Gunkle made a motion to approve minutes as amended; seconded by Bill Hayes. Approved as amended. (February meeting was cancelled)

**III. NEW BUSINESS/ PRESENTATIONS / REPORTS**

A. Leah Christman read a memo from Kristen Lewis updating the committee on the Early Entrant Screening Process.

B. Advanced Placement Courses, Class Rank, and GPA

1. Joan Takacs presented data collected on student performance in AP History.

2. A letter from a Southern Lehigh parent relaying her daughter's experience with AP courses and AP exams was shared.

3. Committee discussed the merits of taking an AP course with the exam vs. taking the AP course without the exam. Concerns were:

- Does the rigor of the course go down with the students?
- Who takes the course without taking the exam?
- What is the incentive to take the exam?
- How do we encourage more students to take the exam?

4. Input from visitors

- Some students value the course, but elect not to take the exam.
- Some colleges do not accept AP credits.
- Some parents value the pre-requisites and rigor of the courses.
- Parents should make the decision to take the exam, not the school.
- Some students may not understand the value of the exam to colleges.
- If the district switches to an unweighted GPA, then there may be more benefit to taking the exam.



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- Disincentive to take unweighted electives, arts, and gifted courses because of GPA and class ranks.
- Teachers should discuss with the student the benefits of the exam.
- In some districts, all 10<sup>th</sup> graders take the PSAT indicating AP potential.
- District should consider financing the cost of the exams.

### 5. Next Steps

- Survey students
- Meet with AP teachers
- Calculate cost to district

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

### V. ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM.