



PUTNAM COUNTY COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #535

Recommendation for the Board of Education

Meeting: December 17th, 2024

Item: PRESS 116 (Second Review and Approval)

Recommendation: Following the recommendation of the District's legal counsel, I recommend that the Board of Education approve the policy changes and updates included in PRESS 116.

PRESS 116 was issued in August 2024 and subsequently reviewed by the Policy Committee during its meeting on September 30th, 2024. The updates primarily address Title IX, specifically expanding grievance procedures to cover all sex discrimination complaints, not just harassment. These changes are currently the subject of litigation in more than half of the United States, including Illinois school districts. It is anticipated that the updates may be repealed following the start of the new federal administration in January 2025.

In consideration of the ongoing litigation and the potential repeal, the Policy Committee determined not to take action on the updates. However, prior to and since the September meeting, the District's legal counsel has consistently advised that adopting these policies is in the District's best interest.

PRESS 116 was first presented to the Board of Education as an agenda item in November 2024. With this second review, I recommend that the Board approve the policies at this time.