

**Oak Park and River Forest High School
201 North Scoville Avenue
Oak Park, IL 60302**

**POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
November 7, 2006**

A Policy Committee meeting was held on Tuesday, November 7, 2006, in the Board Room of the Oak Park and River Forest High School. Acting Chair Ms. Ranney called the meeting to order at 10:29 a.m. Committee members present were Jacques A. Conway, Barbara P. Fernandez, Valerie J. Fisher, Dr. Barry S. Greenwald, and Yasmin A. Ranney. Also present were Jason Edgecombe, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources; Cheryl L. Witham, Chief Financial Officer; Philip M. Prale, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction; Amy Hill, Director of Instruction; and Gail Kalmerton, Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board.

Visitors included: Kay Foran, Director of Community Relations and Communications and James Paul Hunter, F.S.E.C. Chair (arrived at 10:36 a.m.).

Acceptance of October 19, 2006 Committee Meeting Minutes

Hearing no amendments to the minutes of the October 19, 2006 Policy Committee meeting, the minutes were accepted as presented.

Consideration of Policies for Second Reading and Action

Policy 6130, Objections to Instructional Materials

It was the consensus of the Policy Committee members to recommend that the Board of Education approve Policy 6130, Objections to Instructional Materials, for second reading and action at its regular November Board of Education meeting, as presented.

Policy 6132, Instructional Equivalence

It was the consensus of the Policy Committee members to recommend that the Board of Education approve Policy 6132, Instructional Equivalence, for second reading and deletion at its regular November Board of Education meeting, as presented.

Policy 6133, Consultation with Parents and Teachers

It was the consensus of the Policy Committee members to recommend that the Board of Education approve Policy 6133, Consultation with Parents and Teachers, for second reading and action at its regular November Board of Education meeting, as presented.

Policies for First Reading Consideration

It was the consensus of the Policy Committee members to recommend that the Board of Education approve Policy 20, Board of Education, for first reading at its regular November Board of Education meeting, with modifications. Mr. Edgecombe will make the necessary modifications prior to that meeting. The modifications include streamlining the policy. Ms. Fisher disagreed with listing everything a Board of Education might do and felt that noting the state and federal laws would suffice.

Ms. Ranney added that Dr. Greenwald felt the Board of Education should not review textbooks because he felt they were ill equipped to evaluate some of them. Noted, however, was the fact that Boards of Education typically do approve the textbooks.

Items to be addressed would include:

- How non-agenda items are handled in the policy
- The practice of emails
- Duties of officers
- Unsafe public charter school
- Law enforcements drill
- The use of cell phones in the case of emergencies

Policy 4111, Safety Program

It was the consensus of the Policy Committee members to recommend that the Board of Education approve Policy 4111, Safety Program, for first reading at its regular Board of Education meeting with modifications. The creation of this policy allows O.P.R.F.H.S. to be compliant with the new state law.

Policy 4370, Mandated Reporting Responsibilities

It was the consensus of the Policy Committee members to recommend that the Board of Education approve Policy 4370, Mandated Reporting Responsibilities, for first reading and action at its regular November Board of Education meeting with modifications. This policy now reflects the obligation of Board of Education members to have appropriate building personnel comply with the requirements of state law if they should learn of allegations of abuse either in open or closed sessions.

Combining of Policy 6134, Instructional Materials, and Policy 6400, Instructional and Recreational Support Materials

It was the consensus of the Policy Committee members to recommend that the Board of Education approve Policy 6134, Instructional Materials and Policy 6400, Instructional and Recreational Support Materials for first reading and combining at its regular November Board of Education meeting, because of the similarities of the subjects.

Further discussion ensued as to why Board of Education members would approve textbooks, particularly those subjects with which they would have no reference or knowledge, i.e., a foreign language, etc. Dr. Greenwald felt the Board of Education should trust the judgment of the division heads. He suggested that the Board of Education do a blanket approval. It was the consensus of the majority of Board of Education members to continue the review of textbooks. Dr. Bridge stated that the Board of Education members were elected to represent the communities' standards. Ms. Fisher added that she thought it was peculiar that the Board of Education approved textbooks, but not plays or musicals.

Ms. Ranney added that in her conversations with students they have told her that they read everything and do everything and what they read has little to do with how they perform.

Policy 6150, Adjunct Programs

It was the consensus of the Policy Committee members to recommend that the Board of Education approve Policy 6150, Adjunct Programs, for first reading and action at its regular November Board of Education meeting, as presented. Clarifying language was added.

Policy 6210, Field Trips

It was the consensus of the Policy Committee members to recommend that the Board of Education approve Policy 6210, Field Trips, for first reading and deletion at its regular November Board of Education meeting, as presented. This information is included in Section V, Policy 5136, Student Travel.

Policy 6220, Tutoring and Therapy

It was the consensus of the Policy Committee members to recommend that the Board of Education approve Policy 6220, Tutoring and Therapy, for first reading and action at its regular November Board of Education meeting, as presented.

Policy 6400, Instructional and Recreational Support Materials

It was the consensus of the Policy Committee members to recommend that the Board of Education approve Policy 6400, Instructional and Recreational Support Materials, for first reading and deletion at its regular November Board of Education meeting, as presented. Again, this policy is being combined with Policy 6134.

Discussion of Discipline Procedures

The discussion of discipline procedures was tabled until the December meeting.

Adjournment

The Policy Committee adjourned at 11:32 a.m.