

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

**POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
October 19, 2006**

A Policy Committee meeting was held on Thursday, October 19, 2006, in the Board Room of the Oak Park and River Forest High School. Chair Dr. Millard called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m. Committee members present were Barbara P. Fernandez, Valerie J. Fisher, Dr. Barry S. Greenwald, Dr. Dietra D. Millard, Yasmin A. Ranney and John P. Rigas. Also present were Dr. Susan J. Bridge, Superintendent/Principal; 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.

Consideration of Policies for Second Reading and Action

Policy 2120, Superintendent/Principal

It was the consensus of the Policy Committee members to recommend that the Board of Education approve Policy 2120, Superintendent/Principal, for amendment at its regular October Board of Education meeting, as presented.

Policy 3310, Contracts/Purchasing

It was the consensus of the Policy Committee members to recommend that the Board of Education approve Policy 3310, Contracts/Purchasing, for amendment at its regular October Board of Education meeting, as presented.

Policy 5127, Alternative Credit

It was the consensus of the Policy Committee members to recommend that the Board of Education approve Policy 5127, Alternative Credit, for amendment at its regular October Board of Education meeting, as presented.

Policy 5143, Administration of Medications

It was the consensus of the Policy Committee members to recommend that the Board of Education approve Policy 5143, Administration of Medications, for amendment at its regular October Board of Education meeting, as presented.

Consideration of Policies for First Reading

Policy 6130, Objections to Instructional Materials

Dr. Greenwald heard about an objection from a parent whose student was reading *Scarlet Letter*. The parent was concerned about witchcraft. He did not know how it was resolved, but asked if the book had been eliminated from the teacher's reading list. Discussion ensued. He was informed that if a parent has a criticism, the teacher has the obligation to construct another assignment for the student. Dr. Greenwald felt the entire policy infringed on academic freedom as teachers are curriculum experts and understand why and what they teach. Discussion ensued about the use of the word "controversial," as Dr. Greenwald felt it pointed to the fact that it may be controversial. Mr. Rigas felt "controversial" was a relative term, as people will always be on one side or the other. Mr. Prale reminded the Board of Education that it sets the standards. Discussion continued regarding the replacement of the word "controversial" with "objectionable." There was consensus to preserve the word "controversial." Dr. Bridge stated that the school has the right to look at performance, but it is the parents' child and they have the final right to make that determination.

It was the consensus of the Policy Committee members to recommend that the Board of Education approve Policy 6130, Objections to Instructional Materials, for First Reading, at its regular October Board of Education meeting, with the following enhancements:

Page 1, Item B:	Replace the words "such as Sex Education, Family life, AIDS, and Sexually Transmitted Diseases" with the words "by Parent/Guardian."
Page 1, Item B, line 2:	Add the words "by parent or guardian" after the word "controversial."
Page 1, Item B, 1 st para, line 3:	Delete the words "Sex Education, Family life, AIDS, and Sexually Transmitted Diseases"
Page 1, Item B, 1 st para, line 5:	Replace the words "course or program" with "curriculum content"
Page 1, Item B, 2 nd para, line 1:	Replace the words "decides to have" with the word "plans"
Page 1, Item B, 2 nd para, line 1:	replace the words "controversial curriculum topic" with "a topic in which there can be a reasonable expectation of controversy"
Page 1, Item B, 2 nd para, line 3:	Add a "." after the word advance and delete the word "and." Start the new sentence with "In the case of a parent or guardian objection, the Teacher"
Page 1, Item B, 2 nd para, line 5:	After the word "discussion." add the words "or assignment."

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 First Reading and Deletion at its regular October Board of Education meeting. The Policy Committee members concurred that the policy was confusing and not relevant.

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 First Reading at its regular October Board of Education meeting with the following enhancements:

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| Page 1, Title: | Add the words “regarding Title I” after the word “teachers” |
| Page 1, 1 st Para: | Delete the first paragraph. |
| Page 1, Line 3: | Replace the word “deprived” with “economically disadvantaged.” |
| Page 1, Line 4: | Replace the word “apply” with the word “use” |
| Page 1, Line 5: | Add the word “for” before the word “involvement” |
| Page 1, 3 para: | Delete paragraphs 3, 4, and 5 from the Policy and include them in the procedures. |

The question was asked, “What would happen if the District did not make AYP in the sixth year. The response was that the district could:

1. Hire an outside company to take over the District;
2. Alter the administrative structure;
3. Move from a central management system to a site management system (District 200 is actually both)

Dr. Greenwald thought there might be some validity to the District’s refusal of Title I funds in order to stop the Federal clock. Mr. Prale informed him that doing so would not stop the State of Illinois’ clock. Other issues would come into play as well. The District would also have to explain to the community why those funds were refused.

Dr. Millard noted that her plan was to start her review of the Policy Book with the last section. When the 6000 series is completed, the next series to be reviewed will be that concerning students, Series 5000. Dr. Millard had requested Mr. Edgecombe to ask the Dean of Discipline to review the policies that relate to students, particularly regarding cellular telephones and other electronic items.

Adjournment

The Policy Committee adjourned at 10:30 a.m.