

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

**POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
May 13, 2008**

A Policy Committee meeting was held on Tuesday, May 13, 2008, in the Board Room of the Oak Park and River Forest High School. Dr. Lee called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Committee members present were John C. Allen, IV; Jacques A. Conway, Valerie J. Fisher, Dr. Ralph H. Lee, Sharon Patchak-Layman, and John P. Rigas. Also present were Dr. Attila J. Weninger, Superintendent; Jason Edgecombe, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources; Jack Lanenga, Assistant Superintendent for Operations; Cheryl Witham, Chief Financial Officer; Don Vogel, Interim Principal; 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.

Acceptance of Policy Committee Minutes of April 15, 2008

It was the consensus of the Policy Committee members to accept the minutes of the April 15, 2008 meeting, with minor adjustments.

Policy Committee members agreed that the Committee meeting would conclude by 10:30 a.m.

Policies Under Consideration for First Reading

Policy 1150

Ms. Patchak-Layman, following the new protocols, asked that Policy 1150, Student, Publicity and Media Relations, be considered as having substantive changes. Policy Chair Lee noted that it would be tabled until the next Policy Committee meeting; he asked Ms. Patchak-Layman to submit her revisions prior to the meeting so that they could be sent out to the Committee members.

Policy 1200

It was the consensus of the Policy Committee members to recommend that the Board of Education approve Policy 1200, Board of Education, for first reading as presented at its regular May Board of Education meeting.

The amendment to the policy was being proposed so that when someone chooses to record the meeting, he/she must make formal notice of that intent. This policy provides direction for everyone and gives a member of the community the right to ask that his/her comments not be recorded.

Ms. Patchak-Layman suggested adding the word “committee” after the word “regular” on the first line of the first page in order to be inclusive of both Board of Education meetings and committee meetings. Discussion ensued about formally inviting the public to give comments at committee meetings, as most often committee chairs accept public comments at committee meetings as a matter of practice. Dr. Lee and Mr. Rigas felt that public comment should be permitted but that the Committee Chairs should not be obligated to do so. Ms. Patchak-Layman’s suggestion was not accepted by the Committee members.

All committee packets are posted on the website just as are Board of Education packets for regular and special meetings.

Policy 5114-4, Hazing

It was the consensus of the Policy Committee members to recommend that the Board of Education approve Policy 5114-4, Hazing, for First Reading, at its regular May Board of Education meeting.

Mr. Edgecombe explained that this policy now combines the issues of hazing, bullying and cyberbullying. Franczek Sullivan drafted this policy and the ISBE approved it.

Policy 5132, Activity Programs

Mr. Vogel presented a replacement policy for Policy 5132, Activity Programs, to reflect current practice. After reviewing the policy as presently written, it was the consensus of the Policy Committee members that Policy 5132, Activity Programs, be sent back to the administration to vet the following issues:

- 1) Illegal substances. Can an athlete who is 18 and smokes be consequenced for using tobacco, as tobacco is legal for those over 18 years of age? Delineation is necessary as to when the substances are legal or illegal.
- 2) Fighting. Fighting often happens on athletic fields by athletes. Would they/should they be consequenced for that?

Mr. Vogel also reviewed the appeal process with the Policy Committee members.

Because this is normally included in the current year’s *Student Handbook* and sending it back to the administration for continued review would not be enough time to have this policy amended, Mr. Vogel was instructed to add a clause in the *Student Handbook* that let students and parents know that this policy was being revised and under consideration by the Board of Education.

Mr. Vogel also reported that most of the sponsors have read and accepted the wording of this policy.

Mr. Rigas asked how this policy would affect an athlete suspended out of season and then he/she decided to join another team. Mr. Vogel stated that the athlete would have to complete the suspension, before he/she would be allowed to participate.

Discussion ensued regarding the definition of unbecoming behavior and the clarification of when it is considered an essential part as well as having the privilege of an educational experience. Participation includes different kinds of standards and there might be conflicting philosophies. If the school found out that half of the Jazz Club said they would not sign the agreement, then the school would lose those students. There is a conflict between keeping students engaged and making it difficult for them to do so. Mr. Vogel stated that this question had been considered and it was acknowledged that there would be students who do not want to meet the standard.

Discussion also ensued regarding differentiation of consequences. Mr. Vogel noted that when first reviewing this policy, it would seem to be the same consequence, however, upon appeal; it would be looked at differently. Ms. Patchak-Layman suggested delineating appeals differently.

Ms. Patchak-Layman asked if there were an infraction with athletics if the student's discipline record would reflect that. If an infraction comes through the discipline system, it would be on the student's discipline record. Mr. Vogel clarified that when a student is consequence, the consequence may be up to missing out on 25 percent of his/her practice/games; thus there is room for variation. Minor infraction would be applied at a lesser number.

Policy 1140, Gifts to the District

It was the consensus of the Policy Committee members to recommend to the Board of Education that Policy 1140, Gifts to the District, be presented for First Reading and Action at its regular May Board of Education meeting, as presented.

Ms. Patchak-Layman asked if the Board of Education ever had to review a gift of \$500 or more. The response was no.

Policy 1230, School Attendance on Days of Religious Observances

It was the consensus of the Policy Committee members to recommend to the Board of Education that Policy 1230, School Attendance on Days of Religious Observances, be presented for First Reading and Action at its regular May Board of Education meeting, as presented.

Ms. Patchak-Layman asked if the District made an effort not to have major events on religious observances. The response was yes, but the difficulty in doing that across the board is that the District is not aware of all observances by all families. The student should receive no penalty for observing a religious holiday.

Policy 1250, Internet Safety

It was the consensus of the Policy Committee members to recommend to the Board of Education that Policy 1250, Internet Safety, be presented for First Reading and Action at its regular May Board of Education meeting, with the following enhancements:

Page 1, Item I, Para 1, Line 2: Add the words "and network" after the word "computer"
Page 1, Item I, Para 1, Line 6: Replace the word "all" with the word "the"

Page 1, Item I, Para 1, Line 6: Replace the word “such” with the word “all”
Page 1, Item I, Para 1, Line 6: Add the words “and network seeking to access the District’s network” after the word “computers”

Page 1, Item 1, Para 4, line 4: Add the words “and network” after the word “computers”
Page 2, Item IV, Para 2, line 3: Add the words “, network access” after the word “computers”

Committee members learned that if a student brings his/her own computer to school, he/she is still accessing the school’s network and the websites are filtered. When the question arose about whether a student’s computer could be “searched,” it was stated that the school would not do a search unless there was a reason to do so.

Adjournment

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