

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

**POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
March 11, 2008**

A Policy Committee meeting was held on Tuesday, March 11, 2008, in the Board Room of the Oak Park and River Forest High School. Dr. Lee called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m. Committee members present were Jacques A. Conway, Valerie J. Fisher, Dr. Ralph H. Lee, and Sharon Patchak-Layman. Also present were Dr. Attila J. Weninger, Superintendent; Jason Edgecombe, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources; and Gail Kalmerton, Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board.

Visitors included Kay Foran, Community Relations and Communications Coordinator; James Paul Hunter, F.S.E.C. Chair; Terry Dean of the *Wednesday Journal*.

Acceptance of Policy Committee Minutes of January 15, 2008

It was the consensus of the Policy Committee members to accept the minutes of the February 19, 2008 meeting, with the following amendment.

Page 1, Item 1, Para. 2, Line 4: Replace “fraud” with “defraud”

Policies Under Consideration for Second Reading

Policy 104, Philosophy of Grading

Because not all Board of Education members were present for this discussion, it was the consensus of the committee to table Policy 104, Philosophy of Grading until the next Policy Committee meeting.

Policy 1100, Partnership with the Community

It was the consensus of the majority of the Policy Committee members to recommend to the Board of Education that it amend Policy 1100, Partnership with the Community, at the regular March Board of Education meeting.

While the policy had been presented for minor changes only, Ms. Patchak-Layman had suggested adding to the end of the second paragraph the following words: “through a participatory decision-making process, which would include staff and employees at the school, not just the community. She stated that participatory decision-making is a more formalized process that has a beginning, middle, and end to it. Ms. Fisher asked for further clarification on the definition of participatory decision-making or entities and what part of participatory decision-making does not presently exist. Ms. Patchak-Layman suggested convening a school leadership team. She continued that participatory decision-making is a goal/policy, e.g., many people come

to the table, work on the problems at hand, suggest solutions, and work on how the solutions are carried out. Mr. Edgecombe thought that might be a cumbersome process at times. Ms. Patchak-Layman suggested adding a definition. Dr. Lee agreed that there should be a definition, because some things are participatory; however, the primary way the community participates is by voting for the Board of Education members who choose to make the policy decisions for the school. He believed that means of participation is the single most important way the community participates. He suggested the proposed wording could expand that role tremendously; if so, it should be explicitly defined. Because of the Committee's earlier commitment to end the meeting no later than 11:00 a.m., an expanded discussion could not take place.

Discussion ensued about the review of policies and Ms. Fisher shared that any board member has the ability to review the policy book and bring forward any policies. Dr. Lee asked that Ms. Kalmerton poll the Board of Education members to communicate with him any suggestions for recommendations/procedures that could be used for policy review, i.e., the method by which the Board of Education reviews policies

Adjournment

The Policy Committee adjourned at 10:58 a.m.