

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

**POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
September 20, 2007**

A Policy Committee meeting was held on Thursday, September 20, 2007, in the Board Room of the Oak Park and River Forest High School. Dr. Lee called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Committee members present were Jacques A. Conway, John C. Allen, IV, Valerie J. Fisher, Dr. Ralph H. Lee, Dr. Dietra D. Millard, Sharon Patchak-Layman, and John P. Rigas. 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, Director of Community Relations and Communications; James Paul Hunter, F.S.E.C. Chair; and Monica Swope, O.P.R.F.H.S. faculty member; and Bridget Kennedy of the *Oak Leaves* and Terry Dean of the *Wednesday Journal*.

Dr. Lee received a consensus from the Committee members to adopt the standard procedure of starting with the policies being considered for second reading first, then policies being considered for first reading in an order to be determined by the committee chair.

Ms. Patchak-Layman asked how much change would need to occur in the policy on a second reading before it would need to go back for a first reading. Mr. Edgecombe stated that it would depend on the extent of the proposed changes during the second reading phase. Ms. Patchak-Layman asked if on second reading the policy would go out for "hearing." Dr. Lee preferred keeping a policy on the agenda until consensus was reached or there was a vote to move it on to the next Board of Education agenda.

Consideration of Policies for Second Reading

Policy 20

It was the consensus of the majority of the Policy Committee members to recommend to the Board of Education that it amend Policy 20, Board of Education, with the following enhancements, at its regular September Board of Education meeting.

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| Page 1, Item G: | Replace "Approving" with "Adopting" and delete ", as recommended by the superintendent" |
| Page 1, Item I: | Delete |
| Page 2, Para 2, Item B: | Add "Section III, Board of Education Oath and Conduct" after the word "in" |
| Page 4, Item B, Para 2: | Replace the words "special Board election" with "majority vote of the sitting Board of Education members" |
| Page 8, Para 3: | Delete |

Page 9, Para. 3, line 1: Delete the balance of the paragraph starting with the words “for the sole purpose of forming...”

It was not the consensus of the Policy Committee members to agree to the following amendments provided by Ms. Patchak Layman. The other Committee members were comfortable with the Policy as it written in these areas.

Page 5, Item #I: Add J. develop annually the goals of the board (aka district). Other Policy committee members felt the procedures that were in place were satisfactory. It is the responsibility of the Superintendent to recommend goals for the Board of Education to review and approve.

Page 5, Line 1: The Board of Education President recommends Board Committee appointments with Board approval. The Committee members were comfortable with the Board President making the appointments.

Page 5, Item VI, Line 1: The Board of Education is committed to having meetings which are open, accessible and held at times convenient for the public. Debate ensued as to what was convenient to whom.

Page 5, Item IX, Last Line, Para. 1: If the requested agenda items are not included, a written response will be sent to the Board Member explaining the reason. Ms. Patchak-Layman wanted a paper trail. Other Policy Committee members did not feel this step was necessary.

Page 6, Item X, Para 3: A vote of “abstain” or “present” or a vote other than “yea” or “nay” shall be counted as a “no” vote in determining whether a measure has been passed by the board. Policy Committee members wanted the opinion of legal counsel on this point. (From the IASB, we have been advised it must first be determined as to whether a specific majority vote is required or if the question at hand falls into the statutory exceptions category. If not in the exceptions category, a vote of 1 aye, 0 nay, and 6 abstain would pass. Statutory exceptions include teacher dismissals, real estate transactions, and personal property transactions—the Board should consider a policy on abstentions in the near future.)

Page 6, Item X, Para 3, Last Line: On all questions, a roll call vote shall be taken and entered in the board minutes. Policy Committee members noted that the policy reflected the law.

- Page 7, Para 1: Delete paragraph. Substitute sentence. The Board of Education will conduct its meetings under the guidance of Roberts Rules of Order. No Change.
- Page 7, Item X, Para 1, Line 1: Add "...shall keep written minutes and audio records..." Law does not require that audio records be kept of open meetings, only minutes of open sessions.

Policy 5114, Student Discipline

It was the consensus of the majority of the Policy Committee members to recommend that the Board of Education amend Policy 5114, Student Discipline, at its regular September Board of Education meeting with the following enhancements.

- Page 1, Para 1, Line 2: Replace the words " Superintendent or designee, other administrators, the Program Coordinator of Student Safety and" with Assistant Superintendent for Student Health and Safety"
- Page 1, Para 1, Line 3: Delete the words: "of Discipline" add the words "and other administrators to provide appropriate interventions when needed and" after the word "Deans"
- Page 1, Para 1, Line 4: Add the words "in accordance with Board Policy 103, Philosophy of Discipline" after the word "misconduct."
- Page 2, Item F, Line 1: Replace "Student behavior" with "Engaging in behavior"
- Page 2, Item F, Line 1: Delete the words "or (b) about which a student engages in behavior"
- Page 2, Item F, Line 3: Replace the words "to be" with "a substance to be"
- Page 3, Item F, Line 3: Delete the Sentence: "Students who are under the influence of any prohibited substance or drug or in possession of any drug paraphernalia are not permitted to attend school or school functions and are treated as though they had drugs or paraphernalia, as applicable, in their possession"
- Page 3, Item I, Line 1: Delete the words "or possessing" and "cellular radio telecommunication"
- Page 3, Item I, Line 2: Add the words "in a manner that is inconsistent with Board Policy 5152, Cellular Telephones and Electronic Paging devices, or the Code of Conduct."
- Page 3, Item I, Line 2: Delete the words "unless authorized and approved by the Superintendent/Principal or designee"
- Page 3, Item I, Line 4: Add the words "Personal Digital Assistants, graphic calculators"
- Page 3, Item K: Delete entire item.
- Page 4, Transfer Students, Line 3: Add "Board" before the word "Policy"

Procedures

- Page 8, Para 2, line 3: Replace the term "Program Coordinator for Student Safety" with "Assistant Principal for Student Health and Safety"
- Page 9, Item B, Line 3: Delete the words "or designee, other administrators, the program Coordinator for Student Safety"
- Page 9, Item B, Line 3: Add the words "Deans and other administrators" after the word Superintendent"
- Page 10, Item A, Line 1 Delete the word "Discipline"

It was not the consensus of the majority of the Policy Committee members to agree to the following amendments provided by Ms. Patchak Layman for Policy 5114. The other Committee members were comfortable with the policy, as written, in these areas.

- Page 3, Item Q: Ms. Patchak-Layman asked if a professional fraternity or sorority that had a junior program be a violation? Is the secret society only school-based? Alternatively, does it involve groups outside of school? The policy was remained status quo.
- Page 3, Item V: Add "during the school day." Committee members noted that the school has local parentis; meaning that the school has responsibility for the student from the time the student leaves his/her home to go to school or leaves school to home.
- Page 4, Para 2, Line 9: Delete "or with an appointed hearing officer" Committee members were adamant about not conducting the hearings of suspended/expelled students, as Ms. Patchak-Layman suggest.
- Page 5, Item D: Asked for a legal definition as Ms. Patchak-Layman felt this definition was too broad. Some committee members disagreed with it being too broad.

Adjournment

The Policy Committee adjourned at 11:10 a.m.