

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

**POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING  
November 05, 2007**

A Policy Committee meeting was held on Monday, November 05, 2007, in the Board Room of the Oak Park and River Forest High School. Dr. Lee called the meeting to order at 10:42 a.m. Committee members present were Jacques A. Conway, 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; 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 Terry Dean of the *Wednesday Journal*.

Dr Lee noted that the agenda items would be discussed in the following order: Minutes, II. C., IV. A., and III. G. Other items. Should time allow, other items will be discussed.

**Minutes**

It was the consensus of the Committee members to accept the Policy Committee minutes of October 17, 2007, with an amendment.

**Consideration of Policies for Second Reading**

**The Meaning of the Seal**

It was the consensus of the majority of the Policy Committee members to recommend that the Board of Education approve The Meaning of the Seal, for Second Reading and Amendment at its regular November meeting, as presented.

**Policy 12, American Flag**

It was the consensus of the majority of the Policy Committee members to recommend that the Board of Education approve Policy 12, American Flag, for Second Reading and Amendment at its regular November meeting, as presented.

**Policy 103, Philosophy of Discipline**

It was the consensus of the majority of the Policy Committee members to recommend that the Board of Education approve Policy 103, Philosophy of Discipline, for Second Reading and Amendment at its regular November meeting, as presented.

In response to Ms. Patchak Layman’s request that the policy state the ability of teachers to give detentions, it was the consensus of Committee members that Dr. Weninger would authorize a change to *Code of Conduct* delineating this fact next year. Dr. Lee’s experience as an O.P.R.F.H.S. teacher affirmed the fact that the school has had a standing practice of not stating that the teacher has the right to issue an after-school detention. He agreed that this was a deficiency.

#### Policy 104-1, Change of Grade

It was the consensus of the majority of the Policy Committee members to recommend that the Board of Education approve Policy 104-1, Change of Grade, for Second Reading and Amendment at its regular November meeting with the following amendments:

- Page 1, 1<sup>st</sup> Para, Line 3: Replace “Where” with “When”
- Page 1, 1<sup>st</sup> Para. Line 3: Add the word “by” before the words “principal”
- Page 1, 1<sup>st</sup> Para. Line 3: Add the words “he/she” before the word “shall”

#### **Consideration of Policies for First Reading**

##### Policy 5155, Interviewing of Student by Law Enforcement Officers or Department of Children and Family Services Officials

The discussion of this policy was delayed until the next Policy Committee meeting in order to obtain legal counsel’s opinion as to what to do if a parent declines to have his/her child interviewed by DCFS or there is disagreement between school officials and the DCFS representative about the tenor of the interview.

Ms. Patchak-Layman inquired as to the school resource officer’s procedure of interrogating students. The response was that the school resource officers are not allowed to interrogate students without the authorization of parents or school officials.

#### **Discussion Items**

##### Acceptance of Procedures for Policy 5114, Student Discipline

Policy Committee members reviewed the procedures for Policy 5114, Student Discipline. It was the consensus of the committee members to recommend that the Board of Education accept these procedures at the regular November Board of Education meeting with the following adjustments:

- Page 1, Para 2, line 1: Replace the word “will” with the word “may”
- Page 2, Para 2, line 2: Replace the word “sanctions” with “measures and parents will be notified once disciplinary measures are determined”.
- Page 3, Para 3, line 8: Delete the words “notification of parents or guardians of record with the District;”
- Page 3, Para 3, line 10: Add “8) behavior management workshops”
- Page 9, Item D: Add “and parents will be notified “after the word “student”

Ms. Patchak-Layman's other suggestions aligned to the suggestions she had made regarding the policy itself. Most were in alignment with Board of Education members serving as the Hearing Officer. Because the majority of the Policy Committee members did not agree with this position, these items were again rejected. The Committee had already considered developing and executing an educational plan for each student placed in out of school suspension and, therefore, rejected this suggestion. When asked if a disciplinary action could be carried over to the next school year, the reply was yes. When students are being investigated as to their education, i.e., whether they were in Special Education or the regular education program, the students are in school. While witnesses may have their identity concealed, all involved in the Hearing process are told that questions for confidential witnesses may be presented to the Hearing Officer and he will ask them.

Procedures for Policy 5114-1 and 5114-2 will be presented at the next Policy Committee meeting.

### **Adjournment**

The Policy Committee adjourned at 11:47 a.m.