

# Oak Park and River Forest High School

Joint Committee on Student Discipline

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Board Room -- 3:30 p.m.

**Present:** Janel Bishop, Kamille Brashear (student), Terry Finnegan (via phone), Dana Horowitz, Bonnie Jackson (parent), Dee Millard, Sharon Patchak-Layman, Nate Rouse (chair), John Terretta, Claire Walter, Jeremiah Wiencek, Michail Williams (student), Paul Wright, Eva Zeidner (parent) and Deloris Collins (recorder)

## **Cell Phone Policy:**

Review of Cell phone policy and discussion focused around incentives to students for positive and safe modes of use within the building. The student representatives were asked if allowed, how they would use their smart phones in a way that is productive during the school day. Both students felt that a new policy should be very clear and that it should be spelled out what is and is not allowed. If students know the times and locations where phones could be used it would make usage less disruptive. They felt that teens naturally fight rules and that the more rules in place, the more rebellion.

Paul Wright spoke about classroom management of phones and how many issues arise especially in gym or locker areas due to pictures that may be taken. He stated that communication is the key whenever we talk about phone usage in school. It was stated that possible acceptable uses might cover between passing periods.

## **Detentions:**

It was stated that there are some creative ways we use to allow students to serve their detentions. It was shared that after multiple attempts, if a student does not serve their detentions they turn into defiance for not serving the detentions. A detailed discussion about tardy issues continued. It was stated that there are options for the offender to serve detentions with their coaches or with their teacher.

## **Suspension Reduction Programs:**

It was reported that a way to balance some of the infractions that students receive is thru teacher to student mentoring program. The Substance Abuse Program, has an automatic assessment in which the provider makes the recommendation and the student must follow. Our school partners with Concordia University for some of the less severe cases of abuse. It was stated that parents are involved in the alternative programs.

Ms. Jackson stated that early education assessment is paramount for success and that parents must be part of the solution.

**Additional Concerns:**

Bullying

Locker room supervision during school

Next Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 10, 2012 in the Board Room.

Topics for discussion:

ISS/OSS

Reduced and Alternative Programs

Cell Phone Policy Revision

IT

Timeline