

Oak Park and River Forest High School

Joint Committee on Student Discipline Thursday, April 4, 2013

Present: Aleta Clardy, Mark Collins, Katie DePasquale, Kris Johnson, Matt Maloney, Sharon Patchak-Layman, Jonathon Silver, Tom Tarrant, Alisa Walton, Nate Rouse (chairperson) and Deloris Collins (recorder)

1st Semester Discipline Report

The 1st Semester Discipline Report was provided to the Board of Education and community at the March 21, 2013 monthly board meeting.

Tom Tarrant shared data that he gathered utilizing the SWIS Information System on his students. This system allows us to track the population of students who have infractions and provides another layer to breakdown the statistical analysis for these students. Looking forward to next year, the SIDS will work to breakdown caseloads for those students who are more involved in the discipline system.

Safe & Civil Schools Climate Initiative

Several faculty members will be attending a conference focusing on changing student behavior by building positive relationships. The workshop is sponsored by Safe and Civil Schools and will be in July, 2013. Thru this training, we will be able to build our own workshops, tailored specifically for our school and train faculty members.

Ms. Patchak-Layman discussed implementing a restorative justice program and provided informational packets of programs that specialize in school-based restorative justice. She stated that she believed that a restorative justice program would be a good fit for the faculty. This program allows the students to take ownership of their own behaviors and get an understanding as to what they should do to resolve conflict.

Code of Conduct Matrix Recommendations

The work of this committee will be presented to the Board of Education. The 1st reading will be provided to them at the April 25th Board meeting and will summarize what we have been working on: addressing the Code of Conduct; one to one consequence model versus levels and adding 3rd and 4th offenses to the Code of Conduct.

We will make sure that the students are aware of the new codes and infractions by addressing the specific changes and answering questions in the Huskie Huddles. Information will be mailed to all families about the new codes. We will also be devoting time to talk to students about the new code changes on the 1st day of school.

The purpose of having a Code of Conduct is so all students understand what the consequences will be if there are discipline infractions. It was discussed that only after faculty have exhausted verbal warnings and interventions with their students, that a written referral is sent to the SIDS. Our Code of Conduct only speaks to discipline and consequences, not the many interventions that are given. It was suggested that we add a statement to the Code of Conduct that informs all that “once a student reaches this point, interventions have already occurred”.

The Committee was thanked for their input and asked to look over the handouts as they will be discussed further at our next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 18, 2013. The meeting will be in the 174 Conference Room from 3:30 – 5:00.