I. Approval of Minutes (attachment)

II. Consideration of the following Policies for Second Reading and Action
   A. Policy 1150, Student, Publicity and Media Relations (attachment) (Editorial)
   B. Policy 3610, Automated External Defibrillator Use (attachment) (Editorial)
   C. Policy 5132, Activity Programs (attachment) (Replacement)

III. Consideration of the following Policies for First Reading and Action
   A. Policy 1140, Gifts to the District (attachment) (Editorial Change)
   B. Policy 1230, School Attendance on Days of Religious Observances (attachment) (Editorial Change)
   C. Policy 1250, Internet Safety (attachment) (Editorial Change)

IV. Discussion Item
   A. Graduation Dress
   B. Behavioral Contracts

IV. Policy Docket
   • Policy 1320, School Visitors
   • Policy 1325, Building Security
   • Policy 1400, Recognition Naming of District 200 Facilities or Events
   • Policy 1410, Rental of Facilities
   • Policy 1420, Citizens’ Council
   • Code of Civil Discourse
   • Code of Conduct for Parents at School-sponsored Events
   • Expulsion Proposal
   • Fundraising
   • Gifts for Athletic Teams—Procedures
   • Homework
   • Incapacitation of Personnel
   • Legislative Committee
   • Policy 3510, Advertising and Solicitation
   • Policy 3600, Ethics
   • Policy 4110, Non Discrimination in Employment
   • Policy 5114, Student Discipline
   • Procedures for Acceptance of Gifts
   • Use of Credit Cards by District Personnel
   • Workers’ Right Consortium’s Code of Conduct

C: Board Members, Ralph H. Lee, Chair
A Policy Committee meeting was held on Tuesday, June 17, 2008, in the Board Room of the Oak Park and River Forest High School. Dr. Lee called the meeting to order at 10:56 a.m. Committee members present were Jacques A. Conway, Valerie J. Fisher, Dr. Ralph H. Lee, Sharon Patchak-Leyman, 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 and James Paul Hunter, F.S.E.C. Chair; and Nathaniel Rouse, principal-elect.

Because of the timing of the day, Dr. Lee asked the committee only to consider Policy 5114-4, Hazing and table the rest of the items until the August meeting.

**Consideration of Policy for Second Reading**

**Policy 5114-4, Hazing**

It was the consensus of the Policy Committee members to recommend that the Board of Education amend Policy 5114-4, Hazing, as presented, at its regular June Board of Education meeting.

It was noted that no comments regarding this policy had been received from the community.

Dr. Millard, referring to disciplinary consequences on page 6, stated that there were no comments about visitors coming into the school and committing some of these acts. Will the school just ask them to depart? The response was yes, because the school cannot suspend or assign a detention to non-students. Visitors who behaved improperly would be asked to leave or be charged with trespassing.

Mr. Conway asked for a discussion on behavior contracts at the next Policy Committee meeting.

**Adjournment**

At 10:58 p.m., the Policy Committee adjourned to an Adjourned Session on Thursday, June 19, immediately following the Special Board meeting.
An Adjourned Policy Committee meeting was held on Thursday, June 19, 2008, in the Board Room of the Oak Park and River Forest High School. Dr. Lee called the meeting to order at 9:50 a.m. Committee members present were Jacques A. Conway, 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; Philip M. Prule, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction; Amy Hill, Director of Assessment and Research, 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; and Gerri Rhode, parent; Becca Bloch, graduate, and Emma Lewis, student.

**Discussion of Graduation Dress**

Ms. Bloch and Ms. Lewis read the following proposal for a new graduation dress code.

1. Eliminate the buttonieres that male graduates receive, and the dozen red roses that female graduates receive, or instead, provide all graduates with the same gift. The current practice assigns clear gender roles to students. Additionally, there is a clear economic issue, as students are forced to pay for this unnecessary and problematic practice.

2. Eliminate the color differentiation between male and female graduates. By assigning a specific color of attire to males and females, the graduation dress code is clearly defining gender roles for students. In order to reflect uniformity and equality among graduates, the new dress code must not delineate between males and females in any way, specifically by the color of their attire. There are several ways that a new graduation dress code could fit this guideline:

   a) Caps and gowns: Every graduate would wear a cap and gown of the same color; males and females would not be assigned a certain color of cap and gown. This situation would reflect uniformity among graduates while still maintaining the solemnity and pageantry of the ceremony. Caps and gowns are also cost-effective: they cost considerably less than the current outfits graduates must wear, and also provide the option for students to rent them. In response to the argument that caps and gowns are not a tradition at OPRFHS, caps and gowns are a worldwide symbol of academic achievement. Although they might not have been found at previous OPRFHS graduation ceremonies, they reflect a worldwide, centuries-old tradition of academic achievement and of graduation.

   b) A monochromatic dress code: Every graduate would wear an outfit in the color that the school deemed appropriate for the graduation ceremony. The outfits that graduates would wear would have to follow certain guidelines, but these guidelines would not differentiate between male and female graduates. That is not to say that every graduate would be
forced to wear the same attire. Rather, this new set of guidelines would enable graduates to choose their attire on their volition, and not be assigned attire based on their gender. A possible example of this option would be as follows:

All graduates must wear a black outfit to graduation. Gray, navy, or any other dark colors are not acceptable.

If a graduate decides to wear a dress or a skirt and top, it must meet the following guidelines:
- All dresses must be floor length or ankle length.
- Formal black tops must be worn with floor length or ankle length black skirts.
- Dresses or tops must have straps of some sort. Spaghetti straps are acceptable.
- Strapless, backless, one strap, and off-the-shoulder dresses and tops are not acceptable.
- The bodice (chest) and back must be covered and appear black from a distance (no sheer tops, nylon, etc.).
- Dresses or skirts should not be split above the knee.
- Outfits should be free of distracting ornamentation. Simple and elegant is the goal!
- Dresses or skirts must be full enough to allow comfortable and graceful marching and sitting.
- Jewelry should be simple.
- Footwear: black dress shoes or dress sandals. Because of the surface of the field, spike heels are not recommended. Beach shoes or slippers are prohibited.

If a graduate decides to wear a suit or pantsuit, it must meet the following guidelines:
- Black suits, black pantsuits, or a black sport coat and black dress pants must be worn.
- Shorts are not acceptable.
- Plain white shirt must be worn.
- A black tie (no bow ties) is to be worn.
- Black dress shoes with black socks must be worn. Beach shoes or slippers are prohibited.

For all graduates:
- Leave all gloves, purses, hats and head coverings at home. All are prohibited.
- Each graduate will be carrying a diploma and will be shaking hands, so it will be cumbersome to carry additional items. Please leave them at home.

"Either one of the possibilities listed in item 2 would satisfy the grievances with the current graduation dress code as listed above. Both satisfy the issue that the dress code assigns gender roles, and both (although option A does more so) satisfy the issue that the dress code is an economic burden.

"District Policy Rationale"

"Currently, there is no district policy regarding graduation, except for the required number of credits a student needs to graduate. The graduation dress code is an issue of administrative procedure, and thusly, the principal and superintendent decide how the ceremony should operate. This goes for the dress code, as well: the last change in the graduation dress code – the decision to allow female graduates to wear white pantsuits in addition to white dresses and skirts – was a unilateral decision by Superintendent/Principal Dr. Susan Bridge. If we are to follow this precedent, our proposal is for Dr. Weninger’s decision to make."
“However, we believe that an issue as important as this should be not only an administrative procedure, but also a district policy. This should be a philosophical stance – not simply a procedural issue – that OPRFHS does not differentiate between students on the basis of gender. The opening statement of the OPRFHS Board of Education policy booklet, which reads, ‘The faculty of the Oak Park and River Forest High School and the members of the Board of Education are committed to a program of quality education for every individual,’ does not differentiate on the basis of gender. This school’s policies, whether they are administrative or pertain to the district, do not differentiate on the basis of gender when they discuss OPRFHS students as a whole, and neither should the graduation ceremony.

“We ask you to recall OPRFHS’s mission statement: “Oak Park and River Forest High School exists to provide all students a superior education so that they may achieve their full human potential.” All students. Not male students, not female students. OPRFHS seeks to enable all students to achieve their full human potential. This proposed policy would do just that: enable all students, regardless of gender, to achieve their full human potential as graduates of Oak Park and River Forest High School.”

Mr. Rigas asked if the student body had voted on whether to wear caps and gowns? Ms. Bloch felt that students were apathetic and bias. They would opt for the current system. She felt the Board of Education should choose an approach as to how to educate students, as it is the responsibility of the Board of Education to be concerned about the District and the students. Students are only concerned about themselves, getting into college, etc. She was not advocating for a student vote because it should be the Board of Education decision.

Ms. Patchak-Layman asked if they recognized this as an inconsistency with the values and the policies of the school. Ms. Bloch reported that it clashed on paper and intrinsically. Ms. Patchak-Layman asked what kinds of questions they posed to themselves. Ms. Bloch replied that they questioned the tradition. How many societal norms have changed about gender representation? They also looked at the economic issue. Why is it so important versus the real life problems of the student body? She felt antiquated tradition gets in the way. Moving of the tassel on the cap from one side to another and throwing it into the air were alternative traditions to be honored. Ms. Lewis said that she wanted to be a student and not a bride on her graduation.

Dr. Lee stated that the Committee was not ready to make a decision at this time. This discussion will involve further discussion at a future policy committee meeting. Personally, he wanted to pick the time and the choice of the battles at the time. He felt he was fighting enough battles and did not want to fight this battle at this time.

He thanked them for raising the issue. This discussion will be continued at the August Policy Committee meeting.

**Adjournment**

At 10:15 a.m., the Policy Committee adjourned.
An Adjourned Policy Committee meeting was held on Thursday, July 17, 2008, in the Board Room of the Oak Park and River Forest High School. Dr. Lee called the meeting to order at 7:35 a.m. Committee members present were John C. Allen, IV; Jacques A. Conway, Dr. Ralph H. Lee, Dr. Dietra D. Millard, Sharon Patchak-Layman, and John P. Rigas. Also present were Dr. Attila J. Weninger, Superintendent; Nathaniel L. Rouse, Principal; Jason Edgecombe, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources; Jack Lanenga, Assistant Superintendent for Operations; Cheryl Witham, Chief Financial Officer; and Gail Kalmerton, Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board.

Visitors included James Paul Hunter, F.S.E.C. Chair; Cindy Milojevic, Assistant Principal for Student Activities (arrived at 8:06 a.m.); and John Stelzer, Athletic Director (arrived at 8:08 a.m.).

**Consideration of Policy 5132, Activity Programs**

Dr. Lee informed the Committee members that the intent of the meeting was to move Policy 5132, Activity Programs, forward for first reading. If approved, this Policy will then be brought to this Committee in August for second reading with the intent that the Committee will recommend that the Board of Education amend this policy at its regular August Board of Education meeting.

It was brought to Dr. Lee’s attention that approving this policy at this time would not allow the opportunity for wide-spread input from parents and community members due to summer schedules. This is a subject that community members may wish to give input. He wanted the Committee to carefully weigh whether or not it should attempt to recommend this policy for first reading at this meeting and subsequently final approval at the August Board of Education meeting or bring this back to the August Policy Committee meeting for first reading.

Dr. Millard reminded the Committee that the push to revise this policy originated from a parent’s suggestion that students involved in co-curricular activities have the same rules and guidelines as athletes. If it were approved in the fall, would it be in effect for the 2008-09 school year? She, personally, strongly supported the revisions.

Both Ms. Milojevic and Mr. Stelzer felt it would be too awkward to bring these changes forward in the middle of the year and preferred instituting the policy at the beginning of the year.

Mr. Rigas favored moving the policy forward. The previous administration had informed the Board of Education that this type of policy existed; students who participated in activities and misbehaved were under the same guidelines as athletes. However, that was not the case.

Ms. Patchak-Layman noted that it was one thing to want to have the policy and another to go over the details of the policy. She stated that it was important that the administration know the details of the policy and that both parents and students had the opportunity to comment on the proposed changes. This policy has a direct effect on the student body and introducing this in the summer before the student body and parents present would be an injustice to them.
Dr. Millard stated that the proposed policy offers an element of protection; it can protect students from self-selected behaviors. She suggested "fast tracking." Dr. Weninger explained that this policy would be included in the Student and Athletic Activity Handbooks, which are printed in house. Dr. Lee suggested printing the proposed policy in the handbooks with a statement that the policy was under consideration by the Board of Education. He agreed Ms. Patchak-Layman's point that this was a significant issue within the community. Mr. Rouse added that some activities will begin prior to school. The concern is the potential of not having the policy in effect for those who violate the policy at the beginning at the year; parents would feel it was unfair. Dr. Lee and Mr. Rigas agreed that there might be an unhappy parent or two. Mr. Allen noted his support of approving the policy for first reading at the Special Board of Education meeting to follow. It was the consensus of the majority of the Committee members was that it would be awkward and confusing to do that.

It was also explained that IHSA rules are firm about having good grades, they are not as clear on behavior; it would affect only the day of the activity. It is up to the school to have a code of conduct. OPRFHS has additional rules in addition to the ones provided by IHSA.

While community input is valid in this instance, Mr. Rigas discounted student input; the Board of Education should decide how students are disciplined. Dr. Lee felt more parental input would be generated on this policy versus other policies considered, with the exception of the Philosophy of Grading Policy.

Mr. Rigas asked for clarification regarding lacrosse and girls' water polo. It was explained that these were not IHSA-sanctioned athletics.

Ms. Patchak-Layman stated that the Board of Education had a discussion about privilege and the overall educational experience. To her that meant being all encompassing and wide open for students; the school was not to put up barriers in students' paths so that they may partake of an overall educational experience. Privilege is the first step in talking about barriers in participation; the Board of Education has to remove all of barriers in order for maximum participation. In terms of grades, the District must provide support to students for them to keep up their grades. However, there is nothing in the Code of Conduct that helps students. There is the question of privilege versus overall educational experience and how they come together in the administration of the policy. Dr. Lee suggested providing resources to help students with their conduct and grades.

Discussion ensued as to whether participation should be described as a privilege. Ms. Patchak-Layman responded yes. Dr. Lee felt the word "privilege" was necessary because a transaction was taking place. Students who do not participate are not obligated to follow school rules outside the school; he saw that as a transaction. Students are given the privilege and the right to misbehave outside of school. If a student were not involved in sport or an activity, Dr. Millard asked what would be the disciplinary action. Mr. Rigas stated that the District only has portal-to-portal authority and that the word "privilege" should remain.

Ms. Patchak-Layman stated that there was more standing in academics. The academic part of this made more sense. When one is outside of the school day, one relies on other people to feed it information. During school hours, the District can see if the student is following its Code of Conduct. Once outside the school, the school must rely on the information supplied by volunteers. She felt the policy should relate to what could be documented in the activity in which a student was involved. Mr. Rigas stated that the only time a person should be sanctioned is in relation to which school personnel are involved, e.g., sporting events, etc. He used the example of a student going to a game and a staff member recognizing the student had been drinking; it was an obvious violation. Ms. Patchak-Layman asked if the student is away from school, on vacation, etc., and has a drink and someone sends a picture of that, is the student
Mr. Rigas supported the policy as written. Ms. Patchak-Layman would also not include issues that the police had reported. Dr. Millard asked how she would handle a parent’s referral, as people were asking for help. Dr. Lee asked if there were any support for Ms. Patchak-Layman’s concern. The response was no.

Mr. Stelzer explained that there were two levels of IHSA sanctioning: 1) fully sanctioned (all with the exception of drill team, lacrosse and field hockey), and 2) emerging sports (those on verge of becoming fully sanctioned). Emerging sports must register as an emerging sport each year; the school district then agrees to abide by the rules, but not as many schools are involved, no championship events, etc.

Ms. Patchak-Layman asked if there were a distinction between administrative decisions for students with IEPs as different procedures are to be followed regarding suspension of students IEPs due to state law. Dr. Weninger will provide clarification on that issue. Dr. Millard did not know how the District could impose something that would be in violation of state law.

In response to Ms. Sharon Patchak-Layman’s remark that part of the policy indicates that the school will give extra support to the athletes to keep their grades up via study tables, Ms. Milojevic reported that C Pass to Play applied to IHSA activities only, e.g., chess, debate, speech, etc. Other activities do not have an athletic season, may not do anything for the rest of the year. Dr. Millard stated that all academic support should be given to every student in the building. Mr. Rigas felt a forced study table would be a deterrent for students in activities.

Ms. Patchak-Layman felt the school should be the one to determine whether behavior expectations had been violated. She continued that the policy states that conduct is more important than the grade. Dr. Millard and Mr. Rigas concurred. She felt this was a deterrent.

Dr. Lee was concerned that the District did not have the same academic requirements for activities as it does for athletes; however, he felt that the fact that instituting such academic requirements would be perceived as being more challenging for these students outweighed this issue. Dr. Weninger stated that this discussion would be an appropriate subject for DLB and BLT. Dr. Millard suggested reviewing this policy this midyear.

Ms. Patchak-Layman asked if it were the general feeling of the Board of Education that the policy will go out and that community input will not affect it. Dr. Lee noted that second reading was an opportunity for comment. It was noted that the Board of Education has the right to make adjustments.

It was the consensus of the Policy Committee members to recommend that the Board of Education approve Policy 5132, Activity Programs, for first reading at its Special Board of Education meeting to immediately follow this meeting.

**Adjournment**

At 8:46 a.m., the Policy Committee adjourned.
SECOND

READING
Policy 1150, STUDENTS, PUBLICITY AND MEDIA RELATIONS

The Board of Education and school administration accept responsibility for accurately communicating with their communities about the decision-making processes and activities of the school. On behalf of the School District, the Superintendent/Principal (or his/her designee) shall be the official channel for communications with media representatives. Representatives of the media shall be encouraged to be in attendance at public meetings of the Board of Education and school events of general interest to parents and the larger community. Meeting announcements and other pertinent information shall be made available to the media in accordance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act.

District 200 students may be photographed, videotaped, and/or interviewed by District 200 staff members, other students, District 200 parents or other authorized District-affiliated groups for informational and publicity purposes. The names, works, photographs, videos, and/or interviews of students may be used in various District or District-related publications, including, but not limited to, school yearbooks, school newspapers and newsletters, District 200 news releases, presentations at professional conferences and Board of Education meetings, District television productions, and the District websites. Such uses will be consistent with the Illinois School Student Records Act and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

Representatives of non-District media shall have access to students age 17 and under on campus only with the approval of the Superintendent/Principal (or his/her designee) and with the written consent of parents or guardians of record given through a signed District Publicity Consent Form which is valid for one year. Students age 18 or over, without an appointed guardian, may provide their own consent. Such access shall be for purposes consistent with the District’s mission and objectives. Publicity must not be for commercial purposes or gain. A staff member designated by the Superintendent/Principal (or his/her designee) shall be present during all interviews or photography sessions with students involving non-District media.

Employees of the District have the right to speak with media representatives; however, comments by District employees other than the Superintendent/Principal (or his/her designee) shall not be deemed to be official statements or positions of the District.

The Superintendent/Principal (or his/her designee) will develop written procedures in support of this policy.

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Policy 1150, STUDENTS, PUBLICITY AND MEDIA RELATIONS – PROCEDURES

The procedures provided below are intended to govern District and student interactions with the media that occur on Oak Park and River Forest High School property or at school events in which District students are participants.

A. Information provided to media representatives should be given in a timely manner; be consistent with the District’s mission and objectives; must not violate the confidentiality of students or their families or District staff, or be disruptive to the educational environment. Publicity must not be for commercial purposes or gain.

B. Media representatives seeking information regarding District-wide activities should contact the Superintendent/Principal or (his/her designee’s) office. The Director of Communications and Community Relations Coordinator is generally the preferred District contact person for facilitating matters related to media relations and school publicity.

C. The Superintendent/Principal (or his/her designee) is authorized to speak to members of the media on behalf of District-wide issues.

D. Staff members choosing to respond to media inquiries should make it clear to what extent they are authorized to speak on behalf of the District and to what extent they are expressing personal opinions.

E. Staff members are encouraged to participate in in-District and out-of-District publicity events regarding educational and co-curricular related activities.

F. Except in circumstances exempted below in I., students age 17 and under, or age 18 or older with an appointed guardian, must have the written consent of the student’s parent, appointed guardian or guardian of record prior to any interview, photograph, or publicity session with members of the media that includes identifiable student information. Parents, appointed guardians or guardians of record will annually be asked to provide such consent. Completion of the District’s Publicity Consent Form will be considered an obligation of the registration process. Students who are age 18 or older, without an appointed guardian, may provide their own consent. However, a designated school representative must be present.

G. A master list of students who do not have permission to be interviewed or photographed by media will be updated annually. It is the responsibility of District representative(s) who are facilitating such contacts to ensure appropriate consent has been granted prior to providing student access to the media, except as exempted below in I.
H. Representatives from the media must obtain permission from the Superintendent/Principal (or his/her designee) prior to speaking to any student on school grounds or at school activities, except as noted in I. below. Students with the consent of their parent, appointed guardian or guardian of record, or of an age to provide their own consent, will be permitted to be interviewed or photographed by the media or other entities in the presence of school representatives. Under no circumstances will representatives from the media be permitted to interview or photograph a student during scheduled academic periods or at any other time when such interview or photograph will cause a disruption to the educational environment.

I. If publicity is related to participation in or attendance at public events such as athletic or performing arts events, student awards or honors ceremonies, or Board of Education meetings, parent or guardian of record permission will not be required.

Accepted December 22, 2005
POLICY 3610, AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR USE

The Board of Education shall provide automated external defibrillators (AED) in designated areas of the building for use in emergency situations. Further, in accordance with the requirements of the Physical Fitness Medical Emergency Act and the Automated External Defibrillator Act, the Superintendent (or his/her designee) shall establish procedures for responding to emergencies that may occur at the facility, as well as procedures for the use and maintenance of the District AED’s.
PROCEDURES FOR PUBLIC ACCESS DEFIBRILLATION PROGRAM, POLICY 3610

I. Background

Consistent with the District’s policy on Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) and for the health and wellness of the District’s staff, students, parents and visitors, Oak Park and River Forest High School hereby institutes procedures for a Public Access Defibrillation (PAD) program. AEDs are being provided through the PAD program for the treatment of Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) on District property.

The PDA program stems from studies showing that successful early defibrillation programs can ensure delivery of defibrillation therapy during the first critical few minutes of SCA and that surviving SCA is largely dependent on how quickly the victim is defibrillated. These studies indicate that use of AEDs in providing a first shock delivery, by trained laypersons, within 3 to 4 minutes of SCA can save lives.

In light of the District’s at-risk population, which includes staff, students, parents and visitors with known and undiagnosed cardiac disease, students participating in physical education and athletics and aging adults, the PDA program has the real potential to save lives.

The procedures set forth herein have been developed consistent with the Illinois Automated External Defibrillator Act, 410 ILCS 4/1 et seq., rules and regulations promulgated by the Illinois Department of Public Health in accordance with said Act, 77 Ill. Adm. Code 525.100 et seq., the School Board’s AED policy and the procedures developed with the Oak Park Fire Department. These procedures are intended to govern the use of AEDs and provide appropriate AED training for District personnel, and they are designed to govern the use of AEDs during normal business/school hours. The procedures establish reasonable measures, protocols and procedures to ensure that AEDs are used only by trained AED users, maintained and tested according to manufacturer guidelines and registered with the local EMS System. While the District assumes no responsibility for the use of an AED by non-District personnel, these procedures are not intended to prohibit someone properly trained in the use of an AED from using a District AED in an emergency situation.

II. Use, Number and Location of AEDs
AEDs may be used in medical emergencies by trained responders (as defined in Section III) and shall be used in accordance with the guidelines taught to trained responders during their training. Use of an AED should coincide with a request for an ambulance via the 911 system. Any person, whether a District trained responder or not, who uses a District AED shall report the incident to the School Nurse, or designee (or his/her designee), as soon as practicable after the use and shall assist the School Nurse in complying with the reporting requirements contained in Section V.

The District shall initially install five (5) AEDs. Additional AEDs may be acquired as needed. The initial AEDs shall be distributed within the District as set forth below, and the distribution of any subsequently acquired AEDs or the relocation of an existing AED shall be determined by the Superintendent, or his designee, with the advice of the Committee (as defined in Section VI).

Outside: Stadium – East Entrance

1st Floor: Corridor Outside of East Pool
           West Pool Area
           Trainer's Office in Field House
           Field House Corridor North Wall
           Adjacent to Ticket Booth in Student Center

2nd Floor: Adaptive Gym Corridor
           Outside of Health Services Office – Room 234

3rd Floor: 3 East Dance Studio Area
           Outside of 3rd floor Library Entrance

Outside Room 234 – Nurse's Office
                   Field House Corridor
                   Hallway outside Girls' Pool
                   Student Center
                   Athletic Trainer's Office

The Superintendent/Principal, or designee (or his/her designee), in consultation with the manufacturers of the AEDs and the Committee, shall determine the placement of the AEDs, so as to maximize availability to all areas of a building and to minimize defibrillation response time. The initial five (5) AEDs shall be installed at the locations set forth in Exhibit A. As new AEDs are acquired and
installed or existing AEDs relocated, Exhibit A shall be timely amended to reflect the new AED locations. Failure to so amend Exhibit A shall not in any way invalidate or limit these procedures. —AEDs shall be stored as to be highly visible and otherwise compliant with the manufacturer’s guideline and relevant law. Each AED shall be stored in a wall cabinet with an alarm system sufficient to indicate device removal, and each cabinet shall be stocked with the customary supplies necessary (i) to assist a trained responder in placement for maximum contact and (ii) to provide universal precaution for the trained responder.

III. Trained Responders

The District shall have trained responders. A person shall be deemed a trained responder once the person has successfully completed the American Heart Association Heartsavers course taught by the Oak Park Fire Department or upon the approval of the Committee, such similar, State-sanctioned course that may be offered by the Fire Department or other authorized entity. The School Nurse shall devise a plan for training health service personnel, physical education teachers, coaches, athletic trainers, Buildings and Grounds personnel, security personnel, and other District employees as appropriate.

The Office of Human Resources shall ensure that all trained responders are provided with timely opportunities for re-certification as required by the Illinois Department of Public Health’s Automated External Defibrillator Code. Currently re-certification is required every two years.

IV. Maintenance of AEDs

The School Nurse and/or a employee of Buildings and Grounds shall conduct regular checks of the equipment and supplies of each AED. The Business Office shall contract with the manufacturer for annual maintenance of each AED. All documentation related to the maintenance and testing of the AEDs shall be maintained by the School Nurse at designated locations. At a minimum, the documentation shall include the date and type of maintenance/testing and the signature of the person performing the maintenance/testing.

The PAD program shall be registered with Loyola University Medical Center. The School Nurse shall serve as the District’s liaison to the Oak Park Fire Department. The District shall provide the Oak Park Fire Department’s Deputy Chief (i) a list of trained users at each site, (ii) a copy of the manufacturer’s guidelines for the maintenance and training and documentation confirming that these guidelines are being met and (iii) any other information required by law. The District shall ensure that the Deputy Fire Chief has the most recent contact information for all relevant District personnel.
V. Reporting of Use

The District shall notify, by either fax or mail, the Oak Park Fire Department’s Deputy Chief as soon as practicable, but in no event later than the end of the month in which the use of an AED occurred, of any event, incident or situation that results in the use of an AED, and the District shall comply with all reasonable, follow-up procedures established by the Oak Park Fire Department. In so notifying the Oak Park Fire Department, the District shall provide the following information related to each use of an AED:

A. Date and time of the incident;
B. Name of the person who determined a patient’s unresponsiveness;
C. Time that 911 was called;
D. Initial heart rhythm;
E. Number of times a patient was defibrillated;
F. Name of the person who was defibrillated the patient;
G. Final rhythm at the time or arrival of the first response vehicle:

1. Breathing, Yes or No.
2. Pulse, Yes or No.

The School Nurses shall conduct a critical incident debriefing session, to the extent practicable, within one week of any event, incident or situation that results in the use of an AED for all trained responders.

VI. Committee

The District shall establish and maintain a committee, comprised of both building and department representatives. The committee shall be known as the Oak Park and River Forest High School District 200 CPR/AED Committee, and it shall have the following responsibilities:

A. To review, at least annually, the District’s PAD program procedures;
B. To review, as needed, the sufficiency and placement of AEDs;
C. To identify, on an annual basis, all staff to be certified or re-certified and, in consultation with the School Nurses schedule the placement of certification classes on the school calendar;
D. Prepare an annual report for the School Board on the PAD program.

The Committee shall consist of seven members appointed by the Superintendent/Principal, and shall include: the School Nurse, the Athletic Trainer/Director (or his/her designee), the Physical Education Department Head, and one member from Security, Buildings and Grounds, Faculty Senate, and the
Classified Personnel Association. The School Nurse will serve as the chair of the Committee.

Exhibit A

AEDs shall be placed at the following locations:

Outside: Stadium – East Entrance

1st Floor: Corridor Outside of East Pool

West Pool Area

Trainer’s Office in Field House

Field House Corridor North Wall

Adjacent to Ticket Booth in Student Center

2nd Flo Adaptive Gym Corridor
Outside of Health Services Office – Room 234

3rd Floor  3 East Dance Studio Area
Outside of 3rd floor Library Entrance

Outside Room 234  Nurse's Office
Field House Corridor
Hallway outside Girls' Pool
Student Center
Athletic Trainer's Office
An activity program is conducted to provide students an opportunity to assume responsible leadership roles and to enhance their educational activities. Each activity must have a sponsor appointed by the Superintendent/Principal. All club and activity money is supervised by the school business office staff.

A student may officially represent the school only when the activity is sponsored by the school. The school is a member of the Illinois High School Association. When representing the school in interscholastic events, the student must conform to the rules of the Association and to the standards established by the school.

Only such contests as are sanctioned by the National Association of Secondary School Principals are entered by this high school.

To participate in the activity program the student shall fulfill the following rules of eligibility:

A. I.H.S.A.

I.H.S.A. rules covering eligibility shall remain in effect.

For the purposes of determining eligibility, grades are to be computed from the first day of the semester.

Students who receive an "F" on the weekly eligibility report must attend the established tutoring program for the next consecutive three school weeks.

B. O.P.R.F.H.S.

For the purposes of this policy only nine-week grading period grades will be considered. Summer school grades will not count for, or against, a student. Academic status will be determined by the grades received in the most recently completed nine-week grading period whether or not the student was participating in the activity or sport during the grading period.

C. "F's", "N's", and "I's"

1. All participants who receive a nine-week grading period grade of "F", "N", or "I" in any course shall be placed on probation.

2. Participants who are on probation must attend the established study table for the purpose of receiving tutoring or making up class time which has been lost due to excessive unexcused absences or tardies.
3. Participants who receive a nine-week grade of "F," "N," or "I" but who feel that extenuating circumstances exist, may appeal the removal of probation to a committee composed of the Athletic Director, the Activities Director, the Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Support Services, two officers of Student Council and the student's dean.

D. "C"s

1. All participants must maintain a nine-week grading period average of "C" in academic courses.

2. Failure to maintain a "C" average will result in the student being Placed on Academic Alert.

3. Participants who are on Academic Alert must attend the study table. Failure to attend will result in the participant being dropped from their activity.

4. Participants who remain on Academic Alert for a second consecutive nine-week grading period will be dropped from their activity until they achieve a nine-week grading period average of "C" or better.

5. Participants who do not achieve a "C" average but who feel that they are working up to their potential may appeal their removal from the activities/athletics program to a committee composed of the Athletic Director, the Activities Director, the Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Support Services, two officers of Student Council and student's dean. The committee may reinstate a participant by a 4/6th's vote. A participant must apply for reinstatement each nine-week grading period.

The Board of Education shall annually adopt a list of activities covered by this policy.
District 200 considers a comprehensive Co-Curricular Program to be an essential part of the overall educational experience for our students. The Co-Curricular Program is provided to enhance the high school experience for our students; and to provide opportunities to develop healthy habits, good citizenship, leadership, teamwork, self-discipline, responsibility and respect for rules and responsibility.

The Principal oversees the Co-Curricular Program. The Athletic Director supervises all aspects of the inter-scholastic athletic program; and the Assistant Principal for Student Activities supervises all clubs and activities. Each athletic team, club, or activity must have a coach or sponsor who is recommended for appointment by the Athletic Director or the Assistant Principal for Student Activities, in conjunction with the Principal.

A student represents OPRFHS when the team or activity is sponsored as part of the high school’s Co-Curricular Program. OPRFHS is a member of the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) and the West Suburban Conference (W.S.C.). When representing the high school in interscholastic events, the student must conform to the rules of the IHSA, the W.S.C., as well as the rules and standards established by the high school.

Participation in the Co-Curricular Program is considered an extension of, although separate from, the regular school day. Participation in the co-curricular program is considered a privilege and carries increased expectations on the part of student participants.

By electing to participate in the Co-Curricular Program, the student must fulfill the following rules and standards established by the Board of Education.

The rules and standards established for IHSA sanctioned Athletics and Activity Programs are described in Section 1 of the Administrative Procedures. The Administrative Procedures outline the expectations and consequences for inappropriate behavior for IHSA sanctioned co-curricular activities. Any student representing OPRFHS in these activities will be required, annually, to sign an agreement to adhere to the Co-Curricular Program Code of Conduct.

The Board of Education has also established standards for academic eligibility for IHSA sanctioned co-curricular activities. These standards are commonly referred to as “C” Pass-to-Play. Any student participating in IHSA-sanctioned co-curricular activities will be required to adhere to the “C” Pass-to-Play standards, as well as the IHSA academic eligibility standards. IHSA and OPRFHS academic eligibility participation standards are described in Section 1 of the Administrative Procedures.

The rules and standards established for OPRFHS sponsored Co-Curricular Performance and Representative Programs are described in Section 2 of the Administrative Procedures. The Administrative Procedures outline expectations and consequences for inappropriate behavior for a specified list of OPRFHS sponsored co-curricular activities. Any student representing OPRFHS in these activities will be required, annually, to sign an agreement to adhere to the Code of Conduct.
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Administrative Procedures for Policy 5132

Section 1. IHSA Activities and Athletics OPRFHS Athletic Program

IHSA Athletics

Boys (13)
Baseball
Basketball
Cross Country
Football
Golf
Lacrosse
Soccer
Swimming
Tennis
Track
Volleyball
Water Polo
Wrestling

Girls (16)
Badminton
Basketball
Cheer
Cross Country
Drill Team
Field Hockey
Golf
Gymnastics
Lacrosse
Soccer
Softball
Swimming
Tennis
Track
Volleyball
Water Polo

IHSA Activities

Chess Team
Debate Team
Math Team
Scholastic Bowl
Speech Team

Participating in the co-curricular program is a privilege. Oak Park & River Forest High School administrators, coaches, and sponsors believe students who are involved in co-curricular activities should conduct themselves as responsible representatives of their school and community. Students who represent their school are expected to maintain high standards of conduct 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for the entire calendar year. Parents and high school staff members all share the responsibility for helping students adhere to these standards. Participants in the Co-Curricular Program have a responsibility to adhere to the policies established by Oak Park and River Forest High School District 200, the West Suburban Conference, and the Illinois High School Association. All violations will become a part of the students’ discipline record.
A student found in violation of the Co-Curricular Code of Conduct may receive consequences up to and including dismissal from the activity. Such violations include, but are not limited to the following:

- use or possession of alcohol, tobacco products and/or controlled-illegal substances,
- being present at a party or activity where illegal drugs or alcohol are available,
- violations of academic integrity and ethics
- violations of the OPRFHS Code of Conduct (Level II, III or IV Infractions); examples include, but are not limited to; gang activity, fighting, vandalism, theft, harassment, bullying and/or hazing; and/or
- any criminal offense or conduct or activity which is detrimental to OPRFHS or the Co-Curricular Program.

If a student is in violation of a criminal offense or gross misconduct, the Athletic Director and/or Assistant Principal for Student Activities may, at his/her discretion, dismiss the student from the team/activity for the remainder of the season. A student who is suspended for an alcohol, drug or tobacco violation will be required to meet with the OPRFHS Substance Abuse Counselor. **Students taking prescription drugs should have a Medical Authorization on file in the Health Center**

First Offense

The student will be suspended from the team/activity for up to 25% of the competition dates. The student will be allowed to practice and participate in all other team activities, except competition, during the suspension. If the violation occurs out of season or during the summer, the suspension will apply to the student’s next season of competition. If the suspension is not completed during the season, it will be continued to the student’s next season. **If the student should decide to take part in another sport, the suspension will be served during that time. The student would need to remain a member of the team for the entire season in order to satisfy the stipulations of the suspension.**

Second Offense

If the student is in season, he/she may be dismissed from the team for the remainder of the season, additional consequences may include suspension from the Co-Curricular Program for up to one year. The Athletic Director and Assistant Principal for Student Activities will make the final decision on the suspension.

Third Offense

If a student commits a third violation he/she will be suspended from participating in co-curricular activities for one year, and may be prohibited for the remainder of his/her high school career. The Athletic Director and Assistant Principal for Student Activities will make the final decision on the suspension.
IHSA and OPRFHS Academic Eligibility Participation Standards

Illinois High School Association Policies

IHSA Policy 3.21 Students shall be doing passing work in at least four (4) classes of high school work per week. If a student is not passing four (4) classes in any given week, he/she will be ineligible for competition the following week.

IHSA Policy 3.22 Students shall, unless they are entering high school for the first time, have credit on the high school records for passing twenty credit hours (4 classes) of high school work the previous semester. Such work shall have been completed in the semester for which credit is granted or in a recognized summer school program, which has been approved by the Board of Education and for which graduation credit is received. If a student is not passing twenty credit hours (4 classes) at the end of a semester, he/she will be ineligible the following semester.

IHSA Policy 3.23 Passing work shall be defined as, work of such a grade that if on any given date a student would transfer to another school, assigned grades for that course would immediately be certified on a student’s transcript to the school which a student transfer.

Oak Park and River Forest High School “C” Pass-to-Play Standards:

The OPRFHS “C” Pass-to-Play Standards requires students to maintain a minimum GPA of 2.0 and not receive an “F” grade in any class in order to participate in IHSA athletic and activity programs. The method of monitoring student grades are described below.

Weekly Grade Check Student grades are reported every Wednesday and distributed to students by Thursday or Friday of each week. If a student-athlete has a “D” or “F” on a weekly grade check, he/she will be placed on the Weekly Academic Support Program (study table) and be required to complete 150 minutes of academic assistance the following week. If the student fails to complete the required hours, he/she will be ineligible for competition the following week.

“Academic Alert” – Nine (9) Week Grade Check If a student-athlete falls below a 2.0 GPA or has an “F” at the end of a nine-week grading period, that student is placed on “Academic Alert” and will be required to attend the nine-week Academic Support Program (study table), which consists of three (3) 50 minute Academic Assistance Sessions per week or 150 minutes of teacher assistance. If the student fails to complete the required hours, he/she will be ineligible for competition the following week.

Athletic Ineligibility/Appeals Process Students who have less than a 2.0 GPA or an “F” grade for two (2) consecutive nine-week grading periods will not be allowed to participate in OPRFHS Co-Curriculars. Students are notified in writing of their ineligibility and they may appeal this decision. The Appeals Process begins with the student submitting, in writing, the reasons that may have contributed to the level of achievement attained. The appeals committee meets with the student and renders a decision on whether to reinstate his/her eligibility. The committee consists of the Principal, Athletic Director, or Assistant Principal for Student Activities and the student’s Counselor.
Section 2. OPRFHS Performance and Representative Activities

ACTSO
Class Officers
Gospel Choir
Jazz Ensemble
Jazz II
J. Kyle Braid
Little Theatre Shows
Marching Band
Marching Band- Flags
Mock Trial
Model U.N.
M.S.A.N.
Musical Theatre
Orchesis Shows
Pep Band
Snow Ball
Spoken Word
Strings
Student Council
Studio 200 Shows
Synchronized Swimming
Vocal Ensembles

Participating in the Co-Curricular Program is a privilege. Oak Park and River Forest High School administrators, coaches, and sponsors believe students who are involved in co-curricular activities should conduct themselves as responsible representatives of their school and community. Students who represent their school are expected to maintain high standards of conduct 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for the entire calendar year. Parents and high school staff members all share the responsibility for helping students adhere to these standards. Participants in the co-curricular program have a responsibility to adhere to the policies established by Oak Park and River Forest High School District 200, the West Suburban Conference and the Illinois High School Association. All violations will become a part of the students’ discipline record.

A student found in violation of the Co-Curricular Code of Conduct may receive consequences up to and including dismissal from the activity. Such violations include, but are not limited to the following:

- use or possession of alcohol or controlled/illegal substances;
- being present at a party or activity where illegal drugs or alcohol are available;
- violations of academic integrity and ethics;
- violations of the OPRFHS Code of Conduct (Level II, III or IV Infractions); examples include, but are not limited to; gang activity, fighting, vandalism, theft, harassment, bullying and/or hazing; and/or
- any criminal offense or conduct or activity which is detrimental to OPRFHS or the Co-Curricular Program.

If a student is in violation of a criminal offense or gross misconduct the Assistant Principal for Student Activities may, at his/her discretion, dismiss the student from the team/activity immediately. A student who is suspended for an alcohol or drug violation will be required to meet with the OPRFHS Substance Abuse Counselor. Students taking prescription drugs should have a Medical Authorization on file in the Health Center.
First Offense

The activity advisor in conjunction with the Assistant Principal for Student Activities will make a determination on the appropriate consequences.

Second Offense

The student may be dismissed from the co-curricular activity for the remainder of the season; additional consequences may include suspension from the Co-Curricular Program for up to one year. The Assistant Principal for Student Activities, the Athletic Director and Activity Advisor will make the final decision on any suspension and additional consequences.

Third Offense

If a student commits a third violation he/she will be suspended from participating in co-curricular activities for one year, and may be prohibited for the remainder of his/her high school career. The Assistant Principal for Student Activities and the Athletic Director will make the final decision on the suspension.

Section 3. Appeals Procedures for Violations of IHSA Co-Curricular Athletic and Activity Programs and OPRFHS Performance and Representative Activities

The student or parent has the right to appeal any co-curricular consequence. This would be an opportunity to present extenuating circumstances that he/she believes could affect the consequences that have been administered.

The Appeals Procedure is as follows.

1.) The parent/guardian must appeal in writing within three (3) days of receipt of the written decision. This appeal should be directed to the Principal.

2.) The Principal, parent/guardian, and student will meet. The Principal, in consultation with the Athletic Director and/or Assistant Principal for Student Activities, will make the final decision on any appeal. If a decision is appealed, every effort will be made to hear the appeal in a timely manner; however, the student may not participate in competitions for the duration of the appeal.
FIRST

READING
GIFTS TO THE DISTRICT

This policy is established to govern the acceptance of all gifts, from any sources, made to Oak Park and River Forest High School, whether such gifts are lifetime gifts or gifts from estates. No gift may pose restrictions that obligate the District to unexpected expenditures or responsibilities, infringe on academic freedom, expose the District to adverse publicity, or involve unlawful discrimination and such gifts must be used in a manner compatible with the District’s educational objectives and policies. While the Board of Education encourages unrestricted gifts, donations to fund specific purposes are acceptable if the Board of Education approves the purpose.

Recognition

The Board of Education shall recognize all gifts at its regularly scheduled meetings regardless of value. The identity of anonymous donors shall remain confidential; however, the Board of Education shall still recognize the gift and its use.

Acceptance

All gifts above a minimum value of $500 may be subject to review by the Board prior to acceptance in accord with established procedures. The Superintendent (or his/her designee) is hereby authorized to establish procedures regarding the acceptance of gifts by employees in accordance with this policy.

Anonymous Gifts

Gifts may be accepted anonymously; however, the identity of the donor must be provided to the Superintendent of the District and President of the Board of Education, and they shall determine if such a gift should be presented to the Board for acceptance.

All accepted gifts become the property of the School-District.

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<td>POLICY 100 STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY</td>
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POLICY 101 CULTURAL DIVERSITY and HUMAN DIGNITY
POLICY 1230, SCHOOL ATTENDANCE ON DAYS OF RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES

I. Generally

Students whose religious practice dictates that they be absent from school to observe a religious day or days shall be excused from attending school and from participating in their usual curricular and co-curricular activities on the day of the religious observance.

II. Parental Notice

The parents or guardians of students whose religious practice dictates that they be absent from school to observe a religious day should notify the school prior to the absence. Such notice should be given directly to the involved student Attendance Office's dean. Since generally none of the major Christian holidays occurs when school is in session, absence for Christian observance days is generally not an issue. Two major Jewish observance days, Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, occur frequently when school is in session, and notice by the parent or guardian should be given to excuse students for these holidays. Excusal for major religious observance days in religions other than Christianity or Judaism will be granted if parents or guardians follow this notice procedure.

III. Guidelines

The Superintendent/Principal (or his/her designee), as the designee of the Board, shall establish guidelines relating to the make-up of classwork, quizzes, examinations, projects, or other work that was to be completed during the absence for a religious observance. Teachers cannot assign any penalty or deduction from the value of make-up work resulting from an excused absence for a religious observance. Since some students may not be able to prepare for tests, projects, or quizzes during the religious observance day or days, teachers must give a reasonable amount of time for make-up work after students return to school.

Amended Date(s): March 25, 1993
Adopted Date: November 18, 1982
Review Date:
Related Policies:
Related Instructions
And Guidelines:
Cross Ref:
POLICY 1250, INTERNET SAFETY POLICY

The Board of Education of Oak Park and River Forest High School District No. 200 has adopted the following policy in accordance with the Children’s Internet Protection Act (P.L. 106-554).

I. Use of Technology Protection Measures

It is the policy of the Board of Education, through the use of internet filtering or blocking devices, to block users of the District’s computers from accessing visual depictions that are (a) obscene, (b) child pornography or, in the case of use by minors, (c) harmful to minors. Such filtering or blocking devices shall be used on all District computers with Internet access and during all use of such computers, except as specifically provided below.

It shall be the responsibility of the administration of the School-District to assess those filtering or blocking devices available for use and, in consultation with the Board of Education, to determine the filtering device most effective and appropriate for the School-District’s needs.

The Superintendent/Principal (or his/her designee) may, on a case-by-case basis, authorize the disabling of filtering or blocking devices to permit adults to engage in bona fide research or other lawful purposes. Disabling requests will not be granted if the Superintendent/Principal determines that the potential harm or disruption incident to the request outweighs its educational or professional benefit.

All online activities of students and minors shall be monitored by those school officials with direct supervisory responsibility for those activities. In addition, school officials shall monitor students’ and minors’ online activities on District computers when not under the direct supervision of school staff. Such monitoring may consist of (i) direct observation of online activities; (ii) review of Internet logs and other use records; (iii) generation of Internet activity reports or summaries; or (iv) any other method that the Superintendent/Principal determines provides for the effective review and monitoring of online activities.

II. Access to Inappropriate Materials on the Internet and the World Wide Web

It is the policy of the Board of Education, to the extent permitted by law, to limit access by minors to inappropriate matter on the Internet and the World Wide
Web. This policy shall be accomplished through (ii) the use of the filtering or blocking devices described in Section 1, (iii) enforcement of the District’s Acceptable Use of Technology policies, and (iii) providing education and counseling to minors and students who use the District’s computer system regarding the proper use of Internet resources.

For purposes of this policy, “inappropriate matter” shall mean materials, whether written, graphic or in other media, that are (a) obscene, (b) child pornography, (c) harmful to minors, or (d) disruptive or detrimental to the School-District’s educational activities.

III. Electronic Mail, Chat Rooms and Other Forms of Electronic Communications

It is the policy of the Board of Education to ensure the safety and security of minors when using electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications. For this purpose, school officials shall regularly review minors’ online and internal communications on the District’s computer network to assure the safety of students and minors. School officials shall further communicate to minors, through the District’s Student Handbook and Code of Conduct, its acceptable use policy, or other means, information regarding the safety risks raised by online communications and appropriate practices to protect against these risks.

IV. Hacking, Unauthorized Access, and Unlawful Activities of Minors Online

Minors who use the District’s computer network shall be permitted to do so only for authorized purposes and for lawful activities. This policy applies to (ia) access to the District’s own computer network, and (ib) access by minors to other networks and computers when using the District’s network.

V. Unauthorized Disclosure, Use and Dissemination of Personal Information

It is the policy of the School District, consistent with State and Federal student records laws, to protect students and minors against the unauthorized disclosure, use and dissemination of personal information through the District’s computer system. Users of the District’s computer system shall be prohibited from disclosing personally identifiable information regarding students of minors outside the District’s computer system, except in specifically authorized instances. This prohibition shall apply to all electronic communications either directed to non-District computers or accessible to non-District users, such as web page postings and other Internet accessible files.

VI. Definitions
Terms used in this policy, including “minor,” “obscene,” “child pornography,” and “harmful to minors,” shall have the meanings set forth in the Children’s Internet Protection Act.

School officials shall communicate these restrictions to minors through the District’s Student Handbook and Code of Conduct, acceptable use policy, or other means. Any misuse of computers or technology use shall result in discipline under the Student Acceptable Use Policy No. 1240. Unlawful or unauthorized online activities shall further be identified as forms of misconduct subject to discipline under the School-District’s student discipline code.

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Discussion
Proposal for a change in the graduation dress code  
Submitted by Rebecca Bloch (class of 2008), Christine Daggett (faculty)  
Drafted by Rebecca Bloch (class of 2008), Emma Lewis (class of 2009)

Current OPRFHS Graduation Dress Code

LADIES
  • White dresses, white partnats, or white skirts with formal white top must be worn.
  • All attire must be floor length or ankle length.
  • Dresses or tops must have straps of some sort. Spaghetti straps are acceptable.
  • Strapless, backless, one strap, and off-the-shoulder dresses and tops are not acceptable.
  • The bodice (chest) and back must be covered and appear white from a distance (no sheer tops, nylon, etc.).
  • Cream/ivory colored attire is not acceptable.
  • Dresses or skirts should not be split above the knee.
  • Outfits should be free of distracting ornamentation. Simple and elegant is the goal!
  • Dresses, skirts or partnats must be full enough to allow comfortable and graceful marching and sitting.
  • Jewelry should be simple.
  • Footwear: white dress shoes or dress sandals. Because of the surface of the field, spike heels are not recommended. Beach shoes or slippers are prohibited.
  • Leave all gloves, purses, hats and head coverings at home. All are prohibited.
  • Each girl will be carrying roses, a diploma, and will be shaking hands, so it will be cumbersome to carry additional items.

GENTLEMEN
  • Dark suits (black, navy blue, dark gray) or a dark sport coat and dark dress pants must be worn.
  • Shorts are not acceptable.
  • Plain white shirt must be worn.
  • A Red Tie (no bow ties) is to be worn.
  • Dark dress shoes with dark socks must be worn. Beach shoes or slippers are prohibited.
  • Hats and head coverings are prohibited.

Although tradition holds an important place at OPRFHS, in a progressive community such as Oak Park and River Forest, and at a phenomenal school such as Oak Park and River Forest High School, it is astounding that an antiquated and discriminatory practice continues simply because of tradition.

Concerns

This dress code is problematic for many reasons. The dress code raises socio-economic issues. Buying a white dress and the accompanying white shoes – which a girl will probably never use again – is a very expensive endeavor. While a boy could use his graduation suit many more times in his life, the dresses/suits girls must buy will rarely – if ever – be used again. Although the school offers used dresses to students in need, the tradition places an undue and unnecessary economic burden on students.

Additionally, the gender roles the dress code prescribes are problematic. The white dresses girls are told to wear hark back to an era when girls were expected to be pure, virginal, and chaste. Putting girls in white dresses that look like – and in many cases actually are – wedding dresses draws a clear line from their high school graduation into the marriage pool. OPRFHS is a school that educates all students and encourages them to be lifelong learners and productive citizens. The white dresses and one dozen red roses traditionally symbolize either a debutante’s introduction into society as eligible marriage material, or as a virginal white wedding dress reserved for a girl’s marriage. White formal wear and roses do not give the message to the students or the community that the school is celebrating their academic achievements.
Finally, by creating distinct guidelines for boys’ and girls’ attire, the school is assigning gender roles to the student body. This dress code excludes transgendered students or those who do not identify with a specific gender. By forcing students to dress either in the attire designated for “gentlemen” or for “ladies,” the school is excluding people. Graduation is supposed to be a momentous occasion for all graduating students—a moment where every member of the senior class is recognized for his or her achievement of graduation high school. And yet, the dress code that delineates between boys and girls prohibits certain members of the student body from enjoying and participating in this ceremony to the fullest extent. The OPRFHS graduation ceremony should celebrate the abilities and aspirations of all students regardless of gender. The current dress code calls attention to gender, and not to the success of the graduates as a whole.

Thus, we propose that OPRFHS change its graduation dress code to reflect equality and uniformity among all graduates. This new dress code would not differentiate between male and female graduates. Rather, it would apply to all graduates. This would enable the school to retain the pageantry and solemnity required of the graduation ceremony, without enforcing gender roles on students. Additionally, this new dress code would be less costly, and would not place an undue economic burden on students.

Proposal For A New Graduation Dress Code

1) Eliminate the boutonnieres that male graduates receive, and the dozen red roses that female graduates receive, or instead, provide all graduates with the same gift. The current practice assigns clear gender roles to students. Additionally, there is a clear economic issue, as students are forced to pay for this unnecessary and problematic practice.

2) Eliminate the color differentiation between male and female graduates. By assigning a specific color of attire to males and females, the graduation dress code is clearly defining gender roles for students. In order to reflect uniformity and equality among graduates, the new dress code must not delineate between males and females in any way, specifically by the color of their attire. There are several ways that a new graduation dress code could fit this guideline:

a) Caps and gowns: Every graduate would wear a cap and gown of the same color; males and females would not be assigned a certain color of cap and gown. This situation would reflect uniformity among graduates while still maintaining the solemnity and pageantry of the ceremony. Caps and gowns are also cost-effective: they cost considerably less than the current outfits graduates must wear, and also provide the option for students to rent them. In response to the argument that caps and gowns are not a tradition at OPRFHS: caps and gowns are a world-wide symbol of academic achievement. Although they might not have been found at previous OPRFHS graduation ceremonies, they reflect a world-wide, centuries-old tradition of academic achievement and of graduation.

b) A monochromatic dress code: Every graduate would wear an outfit in the color that the school deemed appropriate for the graduation ceremony. The outfits that graduates would
wear would have to follow certain guidelines, but these guidelines would not differentiate between male and female graduates. That is not to say that every graduate would be forced to wear the same attire. Rather, this new set of guidelines would enable graduates to choose their attire on their volition, and not be assigned attire based on their gender. A possible example of this option would be as follows:

All graduates must wear a black outfit to graduation. Gray, navy, or any other dark colors are not acceptable.

If a graduate decides to wear a dress or a skirt and top, it must meet the following guidelines:
- All dresses must be floor length or ankle length.
- Formal black tops must be worn with floor length or ankle length black skirts.
- Dresses or tops must have straps of some sort. Spaghetti straps are acceptable.
- Strapless, backless, one strap, and off-the-shoulder dresses and tops are not acceptable.
- The bodice (chest) and back must be covered and appear black from a distance (no sheer tops, nylon, etc.).
- Dresses or skirts should not be split above the knee.
- Outfits should be free of distracting ornamentation. Simple and elegant is the goal!
- Dresses or skirts must be full enough to allow comfortable and graceful marching and sitting.
- Jewelry should be simple.
- Footwear: black dress shoes or dress sandals. Because of the surface of the field, spike heels are not recommended. Beach shoes or slippers are prohibited.

If a graduate decides to wear a suit or pantsuit, it must meet the following guidelines:
- Black suits, black pantsuits, or a black sport coat and black dress pants must be worn.
- Shorts are not acceptable.
- Plain white shirt must be worn.
- A black tie (no bow ties) is to be worn.
- Black dress shoes with black socks must be worn. Beach shoes or slippers are prohibited.

For all graduates:
- Leave all gloves, purses, hats and head coverings at home. All are prohibited.
- Each graduate will be carrying a diploma and will be shaking hands, so it will be cumbersome to carry additional items. Please leave them at home.

Either one of the possibilities listed in item 2 would satisfy the grievances with the current graduation dress code as listed above. Both satisfy the issue that the dress code assigns gender roles, and both (although option A does more so) satisfy the issue that the dress code is an economic burden.

District Policy Rationale

Currently, there is no district policy regarding graduation, except for the required number of credits a student needs to graduate. The graduation dress code is an issue of administrative procedure, and thusly, the principal and superintendent decide how the ceremony should operate. This goes for the dress code, as well: the last change in the graduation dress code – the decision to allow female graduates to wear white pantsuits in addition to white dresses and skirts – was a unilateral decision by Superintendent/Principal Dr. Susan Bridge. If we are to follow this precedent, our proposal is Dr. Weninger’s decision to make.

However, we believe that an issue as important as this should be not only an administrative procedure, but also a district policy. This should be a philosophical stance – not simply a procedural issue – that OPRFHS does not differentiate between students on the basis of gender. The opening statement of the OPRFHS Board of Education policy booklet, which reads, “The faculty of the Oak Park and River Forest High School and the members of the Board of Education are committed to a program of quality education for every individual,” does not
differentiate on the basis of gender. This school’s policies, whether they are administrative or
pertain to the district, do not differentiate on the basis of gender when they discuss OPRFHS
students as a whole, and neither should the graduation ceremony.

We ask you to recall OPRFHS’s mission statement: “Oak Park and River Forest High School
exists to provide all students a superior education so that they may achieve their full human
potential.” All students. Not male students, not female students. OPRFHS seeks to enable all
students to achieve their full human potential. This proposed policy would do just that: enable all
students, regardless of gender, to achieve their full human potential as graduates of Oak Park and
River Forest High School.