

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

**POLICY, EVALUATION, AND GOALS (PEG) COMMITTEE MEETING  
September 10, 2009**

A Policy Committee meeting was held on Thursday, September 10, 2009, in the Board Room of the Oak Park and River Forest High School. Dr. Millard called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Committee members present were Dr. Ralph H. Lee, Dr. Dietra D. Millard, and Terry Finnegan (departed at 9:20 a.m.). Board members present John C. Allen, Amy Leafé McCormack and Sharon Patchak-Layman. Also, present were Dr. Attila J. Weninger, Superintendent; Jason Edgecombe, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources; Nathaniel R. Rouse, Principal; Cheryl L. Witham, Chief Financial Officer; and Gail Kalmerton, Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board.

Visitors included Kay Foran, Community Relations and Communications Coordinator; James Paul Hunter, Faculty Senate Executive Committee Chair; and Dr. David Gullo, community member.

**Acceptance of August Policy Committee Minutes**

It was the consensus of the Policy Committee members to accept the minutes of the August 2009 Committee meeting, as presented.

**Visitor Comments**

Dr. David Gullo asked the Committee to consider amending Policy 5129, Physical Education Waiver, so that students having athletic study halls one semester may be given a PE waiver the other semester in order to enroll in a full-year academic course.

It was the consensus of the Committee to review this policy when all of the pertinent information is available to do so, e.g., these financial and academic factors that would influence this decision, etc. Mr. Rouse reaffirmed that the District has an appeal process and it should be honored. Last year 45 requests for waivers were received and only two were granted. Ms. Patchak-Layman did not object to this matter coming to the Board of Education's attention.

**Board of Education Goals**

Dr. Weninger reported that Devon Alexander had spearheaded the work with faculty on Courageous Conversations on Race last year and that he had constructed a proposal for a sustained program. Mr. Alexander distributed a copy of his "Critical Race Theory in Education" at the table. Mr. Alexander worked on this project over the summer and significant time by school personnel will be spent this year working with him to put together a program that will get more people to participate.

OPRFHS has a standard rate for curriculum development of \$27.50. The District proposed paying him for 30 hours for his summer work and to compensate him for work that would be outside of the school day (approximately 100 to 150 hours).

Dr. Millard asked if a written evaluation of last year's program had been conducted. Mr. Alexander stated that while no written evaluation was available, of the thirty-seven originally asked to participate last year, twenty-two (22) of the most active ones reconfirmed their work with him this year. Expanding this to the entire school will entail developing a facilitating cohort of approximately forty people. Each facilitator would be in charge of 8 to 10 employees.

Mr. Alexander's original proposal asked for \$55 per hour and he explained the resources he used to help him in his expertise, including his own research, contacting other facilitators, working with the MSAN organization, and his work at OPRFHS. He noted that the 138 hours requested included by facilitation and work hours. Mr. Rouse, who has experience with this from his previous employment at Highland Park High School, will co-facilitate this program. Ms. Patchak-Layman supported Mr. Alexander's request for \$55 for facilitation time and \$27.50 for prep time. Mr. Rouse noted that he too had been a facilitator at Highland Park high school. He did not expect to receive any additional payment for his work in this regard at OPRFHS. He supported paying Mr. Alexander the current curriculum rate of \$27.50 per hour.

In the administrative proposal, it allows Mr. Alexander to attend a conference in Baltimore and will require him to miss several days of school. Dr. Millard noted that other faculty members have requested time off in order to develop the professional aspect of their careers but have been denied that ability. She felt others should be allowed to have this opportunity as well. Dr. Weninger clarified that this conference was directly related to a Board of Education goal and that faculty members do attend conferences.

Mr. Allen reported that the first facilitator of the Board of Education conversations did it gratis; the second one charged \$1,000 per day and refused to come back; and then the first facilitator led the third conversation and the District forced him to take payment. While Mr. Allen respected Mr. Alexander's work, as a teacher at the high school, he felt that the remuneration of \$27.50 per hour was appropriate. Dr. Millard suggested Mr. Alexander track the time he spent on facilitation and prep.

Recessed 9:49 a.m. and reconvened at 11:36 a.m.

### **Consideration of the following Policies for Second Reading and Action**

#### Policy 1320, School Visitors

It was the consensus of the PEG Committee members to recommend that the Board of Education amend Policy 1320, School Visitors, at its regular September Board of Education meeting as presented.

Policy 6160, Academic Honesty

It was the consensus of the PEG Committee members to recommend that the Board of Education amended Policy 6160, Academic Honesty, at its regular September Board of Education meeting, as presented.

**Consideration of the following Policies for First Reading and Action**

Policy 3030, Athletics Field(s) and Stadium Lighting

Dr. Weninger explained that the Village ordinance regarding stadium lights requires that the high school has a policy regarding the same. The policy presented is a reflection of the ordinance itself.

Discussion ensued and the following enhancements were made:

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| Page 1, Item A, No. 1, Line 2:     | Delete the words “special events” and community/civic”,  |
| Page 1, Item A, No. 1, Line 2:     | Add the sentence “Approval from the Village of Oak Park shall be obtained as needed and per existing ordinances and special use permits.                           |
| Page 1, Item B, No. 6, Line 2:     | After the word “Fields” add “and Stadium Lights.”  |
| Page 2, Item C, No. 3, a., Line 2: | Add the word “reasonable” after the word “every”   |
| Page 2, Item C, No. 3, b., Line 2: | Add the word “reasonable” after the word “every”   |
| Page 2, Item C, No. 8, Line 1:     | Add the words “Stadium and” after the words “rent the”   |
| Page 2, Item C, No. 10, Line 2:    | Replace the words “and hung on light poles so as to direct sound towards the field and away from residences” with “minimize sound impact on surrounding property.” |

Discussion ensued about listing specific events, such as July 4, where the lights might be used. Should additional events be requested, a change of policy would be needed. Committee members felt this would be too cumbersome.

It was the consensus of the PEG Committee members to recommend that the Board of Education approve this policy for first reading as amended at its regular September Board of Education meeting. It was also requested that this policy be sent to the Stadium Neighborhood Advisory Committee (SNAC) for review.

**Adjournment**

At 11:54 a.m., on Thursday, September 10, 2009, the Policy, Evaluation, and Goals Committee adjourned.