

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

**POLICY, EVALUATION, AND GOALS (PEG) COMMITTEE MEETING
April 22, 2010**

A Policy Committee meeting was held on Thursday, April 22, 2010, in the Board Room of the Oak Park and River Forest High School. Chair Dr. Millard called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Committee members present were Terry Finnegan, Dr. Ralph H. Lee, Dr. Dietra D. Millard, Amy Leafe McCormack, and Sharon Patchak-Layman. Also present were Dr. Attila J. Weninger, Superintendent; Nathaniel L. 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 Terry Dean of the *Wednesday Journal*.

Acceptance of March Committee Minutes

It was the consensus of the PEG Committee members to accept the minutes of the March 18, 2010 Committee meeting, as presented.

Consideration of the following Policies for First Reading and Action

Policy 1125, School Auxiliary Organizations

It was the consensus of the PEG Committee members to recommend that the Board of Education approve Policy 1125, School Auxiliary Organizations, for First Reading, at its regular April Board of Education meeting with the following enhancements:

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| Page 1, Para 2, Line 4: | Add "and/or guidelines (to the extent that any or all exist for an auxiliary organization)" before the word "supports" and add "do not violate" after the word "supports" |
| Page 1, Para 2, Line 5: | delete the word "supports" |
| Page 1, Para 2, Line 8: | Line: Add "Such reviews will be completed in every odd Fiscal Year (FY), and such review will reaffirm the organization's status as a school auxiliary organization." after the word "basis." |
| Page 1, Page 5, Line 3: | Add the word "compliance" after the words "limited to" |
| Page 1, Page 5, Line 3: | Add the word "insuring" after the words "policies and" |
| Page 1, Para 5, Line 5: | Add the word "students" after "District 200." |

Policy 5112, Waiver of School Fees and Charges

It was the consensus of the Committee members to recommend that the Board of Education approve Policy 5112, Waiver of School Fees and Charges, for First Reading, at its regular April Board of Education meeting.

This policy was presented for first reading because of changes to state laws regarding confidentiality requirements. It is now simpler for families and staff when requesting help for books to go through one application process and when requesting help for food services to go through another application process. Families who do not qualify for free and reduced lunch will have the same options to pay their fees as before, make deferred payments, paying with credit cards, etc. Ms. Witham cautioned about changing the wording as there were certain things the District cannot do regarding 1) confidentiality and 2) when records are requested. The fees were not changed. The summary in No. 1 and 2 of the revision covers all instances. She continued that participation fees for sports, and cocurricular activities were not automatically waived and students had to make a request. Pay to Play fees are waived. Ms. Patchak-Layman suggested allowing students to carry an identification card that would automatically indicated that they were able to have the fees waived. While this will be moved for first reading, more discussion will occur on the eligibility criteria for District fee waivers.

Policy 5114, Student Discipline

It was the consensus of the Policy Committee members to recommend to the Board of Education that it approve Policy 5114, Student Discipline, for First Reading, at its regular April Board of Education meeting.

Dr. Weninger explained that the change had been made in "G" of the procedures, relative to an appeal of suspension. *The School Code of Illinois* does not require a appeal of a suspension.

Policy 5117, Residency & Tuition

It was the consensus of the Policy Committee members to recommend that the Board of Education approve Policy 5117, Residency and Tuition, for First Reading at its regular April Board of Education meeting.

Ms. Patchak-Layman asked for further clarification as to what would happen with students who were in special education and their parents were deployed by the military.

Policy 5143, Administering of Medications

It was the Consensus of the Policy Committee meembers to recommend that the Board of Education approve Policy 5143, Administering of Medications, for First Reading, at its regular April Board of Education meeting. The changes proposed reflected current practice.

Consideration of the following Policies for Second Reading and Action

Policy 1105, Corporate Sponsorship

It was the consensus of the PEG Committee members to recommend that the Board of Education amend Policy 1105, Corporate Sponsorship, at its regular April Board of Education meeting.

Dr. Weninger stated that while local businesses may be allowed to put their signs up in the Stadium, there is no intention to sell the OPRFHS name or to do heavy advertising.

Policy 1200, Board Meetings

It was the consensus of the PEG Committee members to recommend that the Board of Education amend Policy 1200, Board Meetings, as presented, at its regular April Board of Education meeting.

It was also the consensus of the Committee members to choose option 1 for Item 3 of the Procedures:

“If a response is indicated or requested, any Board of Education member may give a response. The President of the Board of Education has the responsibility to chair the meeting, maintain decorum, and ensure that a balance is maintained between Board-public engagement and appropriate length of a meeting. Thus, the Board President may establish reasonable time limitations for public comment, and for Board member responses to public comments on non-agenda items.”

Policy 1330, Tobacco Prohibition

It was the consensus of the PEG Committee members to recommend that the Board of Education amend Policy 1330, Tobacco Prohibition, at its regular April Board of Education meeting.

Dr. Weninger reported that discussion was continuing with the Boosters about alcohol sales, etc., at its auction. Ms. Patchak-Layman asked if Boosters would now curtail or not serve alcohol at its event. Dr. Weninger reported that music students would perform between 6:00 and 6:30 p.m. before the distribution of any alcohol. Ms. Patchak-Layman's two concerns were: 1) Boosters has mailing privileges at the school and alcohol is part of this activity; and 2) relative to the discussion about substance use and abuse, it is difficult to suggest that students not use alcohol, when the District allows it with the adult population in relation to the school. While Ms. Patchak-Layman felt that the words “school participation” should be reinstated to be more specific, there was no support for it. Dr. Millard understood Ms. Patchak-Layman's concern. Ms. Patchak-Layman stated that fundraising had occurred with other organizations that did not include alcohol.

Policy 1410, Rental of Facilities

It was the consensus of the PEG Committee members to recommend that the Board of Education amend Policy 1410, Rental of Facilities, as presented, at its regular April Board of Education meeting.

Ms. Patchak-Layman referenced an email from Hepzibah requesting reduced rates for the auditorium and the cafeteria where they hold their talent shows. Discussion ensued about the bigger issues surrounding this. Should the Board of Education give the same consideration to all non-profit organizations using the District's facilities and to those who give opportunities to the students to work. Dr. Weninger suggested bringing the names of the non-profit organizations to the Board of Education, presently only two organizations are grandfathered. Dr. Millard noted that when time and services are donated, there are union consequences. Mr. Finnegan suggested that using student volunteers would them an opportunity to grow in a different area.

Dr. Weninger was asked to explore the possibility of compiling a list of the profit and non-profit organizations that use the building and the amount of revenue that is generated. Ms. Patchak-

Layman asked if the policy allowed for negotiations on the cost of using the facility and, if so, suggested including this in the Policy. Nonprofit organizations make their decisions on whether to use this building based on the rental fees. She suggested that there might be organizations that the District would like for them to use the building. This will be considered with the other information.

Policy 1420, Citizens' Council

It was the consensus of the PEG Committee members to recommend that the Board of Education amend Policy 1420, Citizens' Council, at its regular April Board of Education meeting, with Option 1: "The Board of Education may revoke its status should Citizens' Council fail to meet the criteria specified in this Policy."

Dr. Weninger noted that the attorney's advice to the Board of Education was to not limit its rights: the Board of Education granted this organization and it should be able to revoke it. Without that, Citizens' Council could be considered a quasi board of education, in an extreme case.

Policy 2120, Superintendent

It was the consensus of the PEG Committee members to recommend that the Board of Education amend Policy 2120, Superintendent, at its regular April Board of Education meeting. This policy will be reviewed after the installation of the new Superintendent.

Relative to "Item Q: develops, recommends for approval, and executes a long-range, comprehensive educational plan that positively impacts all students," Ms. Patchak-Layman felt it was the responsibility of the Board of Education to develop any long term plans, not the Superintendent. Dr. Lee concurred. Mr. Finnegan disagreed as he felt to do so would be overstepping the Board of Education's role. Ms. McCormack concurred with Mr. Finnegan as she interpreted this to mean that the Superintendent would develop the long term plans in coordination with the Board of Education's goals, strategies, etc. Dr. Millard accepted the policy as written, noting that this would be discussed with the new Superintendent.

Additional Items for Discussion

Seating at Board of Education Table

School Exec Connect noted that it was highly unusual to have the entire administrative team, a member of the student body, and a Faculty Senate representative at the Board of Education's table. Generally, it is the Superintendent, the Clerk of the Board, and the Board of Education members, with the Superintendent asking other administrators to be present at the meeting but not sit at the table.

From a preliminary discussion with new the superintendent, he is used to having just the Board of Education and the Superintendent at the table. It was proposed that the Board of Education consider having just the Superintendent, the Clerk of the Board, and Board of Education at the table with invitations to other administrators to attend the meeting.

The Board of Education members responded to this suggestion. Ms. McCormack asked if administrators found their participation to be a burden, acknowledging that it can be confusing to

the public as to who the Board of Education members are. However, she did want everyone to have a voice if they wanted. Dr. Millard felt the change would be appropriate for the monthly business meeting. Mr. Finnegan invited the administrators to voice their opinion as to the level of burden it puts on them. He did want student and faculty representation at the table, however.

Mr. Hunter stated that the reason for having everyone at the table was symbolic. It used to be that members of administration were unavailable and Board of Education members could not get their questions answered. The student was added to help provide a student voice and it eventually became an elected position within Student Council. Faculty representation was added to show a partnership with the Board of Education. The number of people at the table had nothing to do with efficiency. He felt the Board of Education would be sending these people away simply because it did not want their input.

Dr. Millard wanted to start the conversation and felt that it could bring the public closer to the Board of Education, physically. The regular Board of Education meetings are to confirm the things that occur in committee meetings.

As the Principal, Mr. Rouse wished to continue being part of the Thursday business meetings, because it was important for him to assist the Board of Education in providing answers to any questions that arise. While he would like not to be at the day meetings because of his day schedule, he appreciated the opportunity to be a resource at the regular meetings. Dr. Millard reminded him that the administrators sitting in the audience can be periodically called upon by the superintendent to sit at the table and make a presentation.

Ms. Patchak-Layman noted that people's expectation is that the Board of Education members at the table, as well as the Superintendent and the Clerk of the Board because of the functions and responsibilities they have. A mixed message about who makes the decisions is conveyed when the administrators are at the table. Her experience is with only the Board of Education members sitting at the table; the administrators form a support group for the Board of Education to call upon for further information.

It was the consensus of the Committee members to table any decision at this point and to bring this back to the August PEG Committee for discussion with the new superintendent.

Adjournment

At 9:59 a.m., on Thursday, April 22, 2010, the Policy, Evaluation, and Goals Committee adjourned.