

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

**POLICY, EVALUATION, AND GOALS (PEG) COMMITTEE MEETING
January 21, 2010**

A Policy Committee meeting was held on Thursday, January 21, 2010, in the Board Room of the Oak Park and River Forest High School. Acting Chair Dr. Lee called the meeting to order at 9:21 a.m. Committee members present were Terry Finnegan, Jacques A. Conway, Dr. Ralph H. Lee, Dr. Dietra D. Millard (arrived at 9:29 a.m.), Amy Leafe McCormack, and Sharon Patchak-Layman. Also present were Dr. Attila J. Weninger, Superintendent; Nathaniel L. Rouse; 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.

Acceptance of December Committee Minutes

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

Consideration of the following Policies for Second Reading and Action

Policy 102, Alternative Education

It was the consensus of the PEG Committee members to recommend that the Board of Education amend Policy 102, Alternative Education, at its regular January Board of Education meeting, as presented.

Ms. Patchak-Layman had wanted to rename the policy "Differentiated Education" and replace the term "alternative education programs" with "differentiated learning programs." It was explained that differentiated learning programs were different from alternative education programs which means different from the regular education program. The term alternative education programs also does not preclude the use of differentiated programs, however.

Policy 1100, Partnership with the Community

It was the consensus of the PEG Committee members to recommend that the Board of Education amend Policy 1100, Partnership with the Community, at its regular January Board of Education meeting, as presented.

Policy 1110, Information to the Public

It was the consensus of the PEG Committee members to recommend that the Board of Education amend Policy 1110, Information to the Public, at its regular January Board of Education meeting, as presented.

Policy 1200, Board Meetings

It was the consensus of the PEG Committee members to table this Policy 1200, Board Meetings, until more information was gathered regarding the recording of meetings. State law gives the Board of Education the opportunity and right to set up protocols for the recording of the meetings. Live streaming would be very expensive and however it is recorded, the meeting should be seen in its entirety so that nothing is taken out of context. It was also the consensus of the Board of Education to make the following modification:

Page 1, Para 1, 3rd line, add “and time” after the word “location.”

Policy 1230, School Attendance on Days of Religious Observances

It was the consensus of the PEG Committee members to recommend that the Board of Education amend Policy 1230, School Attendance on Days of Religious Observances, at its regular January Board of Education meeting, as presented.

Policy 1325, Building Security

It was the consensus of the PEG Committee members to recommend that the Board of Education amend Policy 1325, Building Security, at its regular January Board of Education meeting, with the following modification:

Replace “Building Security” with “Campus Security”

Discussion also ensued about putting up a special sign when classes are in session to remind the public not to use the South Field track at that time.

Policy 1400, Recognition Naming of District 200 Facilities or Events

It was the consensus of the PEG Committee members to recommend that the Board of Education amend Policy 1400, Recognition Naming of District 200 Facilities or Events, at its regular January Board of Education meeting.

Policy 1420, Citizens' Council

Legal counsel, when reviewing the Board of Education's school auxiliary groups policy and the Citizens' Council policy, suggested a more clear separation between the policies because the purposes the school auxiliary groups and Citizens' Council were different. Dr. Weninger stated that because the Board of Education approves the membership of Citizens' Council, the bylaws state that it is an arm of the Board of Education, and its purpose is different, Policy 1125 was stricken from related policies.

Significant discussion arose regarding the purpose of Citizens' Council and whether the word “support,” in terms of Citizens' Council's role, was meant to convey advice after gathering information and to make suggestions to the Board of Education or if it was meant only to support the policies of the Board of Education. As requested, Dr. Weninger will ask the attorney for different language because the word “support” could be ambiguous to some readers. Dr. Weninger will also ask Citizens' Council to review this policy.

Policy 3610, Automated External Defibrillator

It was the consensus of the PEG Committee members to recommend that the Board of Education amend Policy 3610, Automated External Defibrillator, at its regular January Board of Education meeting, as presented.

Policy 3900, Freedom of Information Act

It was the consensus of the PEG Committee members to recommend that the Board of Education amend Policy 3900, Freedom of Information Act, at its regular January Board of Education meeting with the following amendment.

Page 7: line 3: Replace "District" with "public body"

While there was discussion about replacing the word "superintendent" in the same line with the term "Board of Education," it was explained that the law describes the head of the public body as being the appointed executive director, superintendent, etc.; it is not the president of the board of education.

Ms. Patchak-Layman asked at what point does information become available to the public. It was explained that if the head of the District (the Superintendent) refers to preliminary drafts, notes, memorandums, policies, actions, etc., publically, those items become FOIA'ble and that is the executive responsibility and authority of the superintendent.

Because SB 315 will alter what is and is not FOIA'ble, Dr. Weninger was asked to talk with legal counsel about adding a general catchall that will capture future changes in the law regarding exemptions so that the policy does not need to be amended every time there is a change in the law.

Policy 5116, Alternative Educational Programs

It was the consensus of the PEG Committee members to recommend that the Board of Education amend Policy 5116, Alternative Educational Programs, at its regular January Board of Education meeting.

It was noted that students attending an alternative school are still held to the District's Code of Conduct and may not be prohibited from competitive sports while attending an alternative school.

The following will be added to Attachment B as item E:

"The student and his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) agree that the placement will enable the student to appropriately progress in the general curriculum and appropriately advance toward achieving the goals set out in his/her IEP."

Consideration of the following Policies for First Reading and Action

Policy 1105, Corporate Sponsorship

It was the consensus of the PEG Committee members to table Policy 1105, Corporate Sponsorship, until the February Policy Committee meeting.

Policy 1125, School Auxiliary Organizations

It was the consensus of the PEG Committee members to table Policy 1125, School Auxiliary Organizations, until the February PEG Committee meeting.

Policy 1330, Tobacco Prohibition

It was the consensus of the PEG Committee members to table Policy 1330, Tobacco Prohibition, until the February PEG Committee meeting.

Dr. Weninger was asked to clarify to Boosters that no alcohol can be served at its Dinner/Auction until all student volunteers leave. Ms. Patchak-Layman was also concerned about sending out notices in school mailings for events that included a cash bar. Mr. Conway stated that the Board of Education's policies are for the students and Boosters should not include our students in its events.

Policy 4119, Nepotism

Dr. Weninger noted that the changes suggested at the HR Committee meeting were made and advice was sought from the attorney regarding the removal of Paragraph 3 in Policy 4119, Nepotism.

Significant discussion occurred about removing Paragraph #3. Mr. Finnegan did not want to lose good applicants and did not want to discourage someone from applying even when applying for a position in the same department as relative, even in the area of Division Head hires. Ms. Patchak-Layman stated that it made more sense if a person was familiar with school was being considered for a position, it might be give them extra points that one of their family members worked at the District.

Mr. Hunter understood why the Board of Education might adopt a policy that would prohibit supervisors from evaluating their spouses, but he did not understand why paragraph 5 would be considered. Dr. Weninger responded that he had not given specific directions to the attorney about what should or should not be included in the policy.

Mr. Finnegan noted that the spouse of a Fine and Applied Arts Division Head member had inquired about applying for the opening for the Fine & Applied Division Head position. That person was told that the Board of Education was considering a nepotism policy and to not apply. Mr. Finnegan suggested that if the school wants as many qualified candidates as possible to apply, it should have procedures in place to have someone else evaluate the spouse. It was pointed out that a complicated contractual issue would be who would have the time and the qualifications to do the evaluation for the spouse.

Dr. Lee supported the policy because a group who makes a decision on the employment of an individual is under special pressure to favor relatives of employees because it is aware that when one of its relatives is considered it will be the culture to the school to give him/her preference.

Dr. Weninger was asked to do the following:

- Speak with legal counsel about whether the policy was too specific, adding something about inlaws and removing paragraph 3.
- Survey other school to see if they have nepotism policies.

Discussion will continue at the adjourned PEG Committee meeting on Thursday, January 28, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.

Policy 5136, Student Travel

The procedures for Policy 5136, Student Travel, will be discussed further at the reconvened PEG Committee on Thursday, January 28, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. and continue to be recommended to the Board of Education for approval of First Reading at the regular January Board of Education meeting.

Additional Items for Discussion

Additional Board of Education Meetings

It was the consensus of the committee members that the Board of Education structure of committee meetings and Board of Education meetings would remain status quo.

Board of Education Goals

This agenda item too will be discussed at the reconvened Thursday, January 28, 2010, PEG Committee meeting.

Adjournment

At 11:50 a.m., on Thursday, January 21, 2010, the Policy, Evaluation, and Goals Committee adjourned to a reconvened session on Thursday, January 28, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.