

REVISED

**REPORT OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE**

The Policy Committee met on Thursday, February 15, 2018 at 11:30 am at the Cincinnati Public Schools Education Center in the Board Office Conference Room.

**ATTENDEES**Policy Committee Members

Melanie Bates, Eve Bolton, Mike Moroski

Administration/Staff

Ashley Addo, Assistant General Counsel; Cheryl Broadnax, Assistant Superintendent, Early Childhood; Aaron Childs, Legal Intern; Joyce Fischer, Executive Communications Assistant; Jeremy Gollihue, Director of Infrastructure; Yenetta Harper, Director, Teacher and Principal Development; Paul McDole, Jr., Director of Human Resources; Bill Moehring, Chief Operating Officer; Bill Myles, Assistant Superintendent; Sarah Trimble-Oliver, Chief Information Officer

Community Members/Board Candidates/Parents

David Brenner; Marlena Brookfield; Curtis Fuller; Craig Rozen; Laura Sanregret

Cincinnati Federation of Teachers

Julie Sellers, President

Kendra Phelps, Professional Issues

Project Connect

Rebeka Beach, Manager

**Policy 5111.10 – Students Experiencing Homelessness**

The Committee revisited the policy to ensure that language, “students experiencing homelessness,” is consistent throughout the document. The document was also revised to make language more clear about students rights to remain enrolled in the their school of origin or enroll in the school or district where the student is currently living. The policy references that the decision should be made in the student’s best interest and with input from the student’s parent/guardian as outlined in the McKinney-Vento Homeless Act for students experiencing homelessness.

Committee member Bolton expressed concern about the language possibly giving students experiencing homelessness more options.

The Administration discussed the concern and referenced that the school is determined based on the geographical location of where the student is displaced and the choice to remain in their school of origin.

**ACTION:** Assistant General Counsel Ashley Addo advised that she will update the language to reflect the geographical location of where the student is displaced and the choice to remain in their school of origin. She will submit the information to the Board in writing for recommendation of approval at the Board’s February 21, 2018 Regular Business meeting.

Rebeka Beach, Project Connect Manager informed the group that preschool students experiencing homelessness have precedent to move to the top of the waiting list, under Special Education. She also reported that title dollars are set aside and she will begin working with Preschool Promise.

Ms. Beach also advised that the District for the first time, is transporting those students back to their school of origin and that funding is from the transportation budget.

**ACTION:** The Administration will research if transportation dollars for transporting preschool students should be coming from dollars that the District has allotted for the Preschool Promise initiative.

**Policy 5136 – Cellular Telephones and Electronic Communication Devices Possessed by Students (Non-District Owned): Policy 7550.01 – Use of Electronic Communication Devices (Students Using Cell Phones)**

Ms. Bates informed the group that the policies are being reviewed to ensure that they are enforceable and speak to the appropriate use of cell phones and electronic devices during the school day. She also advised that procedures may need to be put in place to align with the policies.

The Committee discussed appropriate and inappropriate use of cell phones during the school day and agreed that much conversation is needed on the topic. The conversation also needs to include the principals and teachers due to the devices sometimes being used as part of instruction.

Ms. Sellers reported that some schools have their own policies and guidelines for cell phone use and as well as guidelines to discipline for inappropriate use of the phones. She also reported that school guidelines need to be aligned with the District’s policies due to different interpretations of the policy at the school level. She advised that the guidelines do not have to be the same for every school building; they just need to be aligned with the District’s cell phone policy. This should be taken into account when schools are creating their Codes of Conduct.

**ACTION:** The Administration will have the principals and teachers review the policies to get their feedback based on how the devices are used in their classroom for instruction in-order to assist the Administration in revising the policy to align with their individual needs at their school sites. Ms. Sellers will also assist in being the voice for the teachers. Assistant Superintendent Bill Myles will include in the review of the policies, administrators, parents, students, student advisory groups and teachers. *The Administration will update the Committee on their solutions at the March 15, 2018 Policy Committee meeting.*

Jeremy Gollihue, Director of Infrastructure reported that Ms. Trimble-Oliver has a team that she is building to review policies 5136 and 7550.01. The team will be a part of the Administrations review of the policies.

**Policy 2255 – Equity and Excellence in Education; Policy 5517.01 – Bullying and Other Forms Aggressive (Transgender Students)**

Ms. Addo informed the group about Title IX (9). On June 23, 1972, the President signed Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. Â§1681 *et seq.*, into law. Title IX is a comprehensive federal law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in any federally funded education program or activity. The principal objective of Title IX is to avoid the use of federal money to support sex discrimination in education programs and to provide individual citizens effective protection against those practices. <https://www.justice.gov/crt/overview-title-ix-education-amendments-1972-20-usc-1681-et-seq>

She also reported that in 2016 former President Barak Obama issued a [Dear Colleague Letter](#), which was an interpretation of the Title IX law. The letter stated that discrimination against gender was also extended to gender identify. Current President Donald Trump rescinded the letter and it is no longer in affect. It is now left up to school districts and the States to decide if Title IX applies gender identify and not just gender.

Ms. Addo reported that the District's General Counsel Office provides guidance to principals and assistant principals and advises them to take each situation on a case-by-case basis.

Ms. Addo reminded and reviewed with the Committee the memo that Legal Counsel sent to principals and assistant principals regarding *Privacy of a Student's Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity*.

Information about use of locker rooms and restrooms were also sent in a memo, put in the principals newsletter, and distributed at the principals leadership trainings.

**ACTION:** The Administration will include in procedure processes for use of bathrooms and locker rooms for students and staff and update the Committee at the March 15, 2018 Policy Committee meeting. **IS THIS ACCURATE**

The Committee discussed if a policy or procedure is needed and if there are issues in designating certain bathrooms for transgender students. They also discussed use of a designated bathroom and allowing use of a bathroom that corresponds to the individual's gender identity.

**ACTION:** Assistant Superintendent Myles recommended that the Student Achievement Committee review the *Character and Support Guide – Code of Conduct* in-ordre to discuss process and/or procedure that parents follow regarding bathroom and locker room access based on gender and gender identity.

Committee member Moroski inquired about a legal opinion to determine if the process needs to be put in policy or procedure, and if what is currently in place enough. Will a policy bring more stress to the situation? Should it just be left as a procedure? This would include staff as well.

Ms. Addo responded to Mr. Moroski's inquiry and reported that the memos and trainings that have been conducted are good and that the District is on the right track.

**ACTION:** Ms. Bolton advised the Administration to revise the below following language contained in Policy 5517.01 – Bullying and Other Forms Aggressive:

*The ~~President of the~~ Board shall receive a written summary of all reported incidents semiannually, and this summary will be posted on the District's website to the extent permitted by FERPA.*

The Administration will also revise other policies that reference the *Board President* to read the *Board*.

**Neighborhood Analysis**

Mr. Myles reported that Pleasant Ridge Montessori has outgrown its boundaries and facilities have found ways to accommodate the growth. The neighborhood has also helped the district with solutions to address the growth.

Mr. Myles reviewed the following *School of Residence* data for *Pleasant Ridge Montessori (PRM)*, *Silverton* and *Woodford Paideia* schools with the Committee. The School of Residence ref

He reported that out of the 670 students who attend PRM, 641 of those students live out of the boundary area.

**Pleasant Ridge Montessori**

<b>School of Residence</b>	<b>Pleasant Ridge Montessori School</b>
Pleasant Ridge Montessori School	641
John P. Parker	6
Silverton	5
Ethel M. Taylor Academy	3
Evanston Academy	3
Roselawn Condon School	3
South Avondale	3
Bond Hill Academy	2
Hartwell	2
Westwood	2
Grand Total	670

He reported that out of the 416 students who attend Silverton, 57 of those students are from the Pleasant Ridge Neighborhood.

**Silverton**

<b>School of Residence</b>	<b>Silverton</b>
Silverton	148
John P. Parker	85
Pleasant Ridge Montessori School	57
Bond Hill Academy	16
South Avondale	15
Roselawn Condon School	11
Evanston Academy	10
Frederick Douglass	9
Hyde Park School	8
Inactive School	7
Rothenberg Preparatory Academy	7
Carson School	4
Mt. Washington	4
Pleasant Hill Academy	4
Rockdale Academy	4
Hartwell	3
Hays-Porter School	3
Mt. Airy	3
Roll Hill Academy	3

Winton Hills Academy	3
Cheviot	2
Riverview East Academy	2
Taft Elementary	2
Covedale	1
Ethel M. Taylor Academy	1
Kilgour	1
Midway	1
Rees E. Price	1
Westwood	1
Grand Total	416

Ms. Bates inquired about making Woodford Paideia a neighborhood school with the same boundaries as PRM and allow families to choose. Mr. Myles reported that this was thought about years ago and new students were given an option to attend PRM. He also advised that there may be ways to do something different.

### **Woodford Paideia**

<b>School of Residence</b>	<b>Woodford Paideia</b>
Pleasant Ridge Montessori School	83
John P. Parker	80
Bond Hill Academy	29
Roselawn Condon School	27
Silverton	21
Rockdale Academy	16
Evanston Academy	15
Hays-Porter School	14
South Avondale	14
Frederick Douglass	7
Hartwell	7
Inactive School	6
Midway	6
Rothenberg Preparatory Academy	6
Pleasant Hill Academy	5
Taft Elementary	5
Kilgour	4
Mt. Washington	4
Rees E. Price	4
Winton Hills Academy	4
Chase	3
Hyde Park School	3
Oyler	3
Cheviot	2
Riverview East Academy	2
Carson School	1
Ethel M. Taylor Academy	1
Mt. Airy	1
Westwood	1
Grand Total	374

Ms. Bolton recommended discussing transitioning to a neighborhood school and the ability to choose between the three schools without the boundary. Neighborhood schools could also be magnet schools.

**ACTION:** Mr. Myles will do a mapping of the three schools to determine what neighborhoods the students are coming from and he will look at various school portfolios without disruption of changing boundaries.

Ms. Bates asked about schools that have a waiting list. Mr. Myles reported the following number of students on a waiting list:

Capacity Over 600

North Avondale  
Pleasant Ridge Montessori  
John P. Parker

Capacity Over 700

Dater Montessori  
Sands Montessori

Full

Silverton Paideia  
Woodford Paideia

**Policies Relevant to the Cincinnati Preschool Promise Expansion Board**

Mrs. Broadnax updated the Committee on her below report for policies that have been reviewed in the areas of Finance, Equity, Enrollment, Public Records, and Ohio Sunshine Laws (Open Meetings).

1. Finance- Various and often complex. System is in place. As Preschool Promise budgets, work plans, and policies done with CPP board/committees there is always a check and balance to CPS Board policies. In addition, obviously state/federal guidelines that would be applicable as well. There is both a CPS Finance committee and CPP Finance committee.
2. Equity policy- Just as this is embedded in all our work- CPP is looking at their work and decisions through the lens of equity.
3. Enrollment-
  - a. Enrollment age 3
  - b. Parent access to program
  - c. Parent choice of program that meets family needs/funding options
  - d. Preschool special education (process)(services)
  - e. Registration
    - i. Documentation (custody)
    - ii. District residency
4. Open meetings /Sunshine laws (training provided to CPP board)
  - a. Quorum
  - b. Notice of Meetings
  - c. Recess/Executive Session
  - d. Voting
  - e. Minutes of meetings
  - f. Hearing of the Public
5. Public Records
6. Student Records
  - a. Confidentiality
  - b. Directory information (name/address/phone/awards/)

### **District Business Advisory Council**

ACTION: General Council will provide the Committee with a memo that outlines the Council in order to be recommended for approval at the February 26, 2018 Regular Business Meeting. The Council needs to be in place by March 1, 2018.

### **Develop Recommendations for Responsibilities and Charter for the Board's new Committee: Board, District and Community Strategic Planning Committee**

Ms. Bolton and Mr. Hoying will provide the Committee with their recommendations in the form of a memo in advance of the March 15, 2018 meeting. The Board agreed to move forward with this Committee and assigned the Policy Committee to create a draft of a charter for the new committee.

### **Committee Work Plan Continued Review**

Mr. Hoying will provide the Committee with a draft of the plan in preparation of the March 15, 2018 meeting.

### **March 15, 2018 Policy Committee Carry Over Agenda Items**

1. Policy 9212 – Non School Organizations (PTO's/School Foundations/Boosters)
2. Policy 7510 – Use of District Facilities (Alcohol Waivers – Non-School Facilities)
3. Legalities for Publishing Written Procedures

### **Introduce OSBA's 2018 Legislative Platform**

Ms. Bates will recommend that the Platform be revised to raise the current Board stipend.

### **Other Business**

#### **Calamity Days**

Mr. Hoying provided the Committee with an update about the policy in the following email on February 9, 2018, 6:00 PM:

>>> Daniel Hoying 2/9/2018 6:28 PM >>>

As Ms. Bates pointed out, the Ohio General Assembly and Ohio Department of Education recently changed from requiring a minimum number of school days -- to requiring a minimum number of school hours. Questions are better directed to our curriculum and academic administrators, however, I understand that the switch from counting days to hours put the District in a good position -- and we have a pretty significant buffer zone for calling school on calamity days before we are in danger of falling below the state minimum number of hours.

In establishing hours requirements, however, the General Assembly did not repeal the "blizzard bags" statute -- see Ohio Rev. Code <http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/3313.482>. While it is less likely that CPS would have to use blizzard bags based on the hours requirement, it is still permissible under the Ohio Revised Code.

*In any event, I do not recommend repealing the attached "Calamity Days" policy. Instead, I recommend that the Board revise the policy to reflect the hours / days distinction. I attach a proposed redline for your review.*

ACTION: The committee reviewed Policy 8420.02 – Calamity Days and will recommend approval of the revision to the Board at the February 21, 2018 Regular Business Meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 1:05 PM.

**Policy Committee**

Melanie Bates, Chair  
Eve Bolton  
Mike Moroski

**Staff Liaisons**

Dan Hoying, General Counsel  
Yenetta Harper, Director, Teacher and Principal Development  
Paul McDole, Director, Human Resources  
Sarah Trimble-Oliver, Chief Information Officer