

REVISED**REPORT OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE**

The Policy Committee met on Monday, February 13, 2017 at 4:00 pm at the Cincinnati Public Schools Education Center in the Board Office Conference Room.

Student Voice/Representative on School Board

Erin Bledsoe, Board Fellow

Ms. Bledsoe updated the Committee on her summary of findings about student representatives on school boards. Her summary included current ways that the District is considering student perspectives from the following student groups:

- M.O.R.E.
- Peer Leadership Collaborative
- Student Advisory Council
- Student Athletic Leadership Conference

Ms. Bledsoe also informed the Committee about how other school districts incorporate students on their school boards. Her study included the following school districts that had some form of student involvement:

[Boston Public Schools](#) – The Boston Student Advisory Council (BSAC)

[Dayton Public Schools](#) – Student Senate

[Duval County, Jacksonville, Florida](#) – Student Government Association

[San Francisco Unified School District \(SFUSD\)](#) – SFUSD Student Advisory Council

The findings from her summary were as follows:

Districts that have effectively and authentically integrated student perspective into board practice have a program in place, managed by the district, that produces a student representative to participate with the school board (an outline of several district programs is summarized in section two). In most of these programs there is a student representative committee comprised of representatives from each high school. This committee elects a representative to join the board meetings. The purpose of the committee is to ensure the breadth of student experience across the district is represented and that student related topics are identified, discussed, and presented appropriately to the board. Where these committees are thriving, students are critical partners and influencers of district wide policies and decisions.

Where there is an established and thriving student representative program in place students are said to develop key skills such as the ability to engage their peers and lead from their community's collective voice, the basics of parliamentary procedure, and how to campaign. Often this student representative/committee is leveraged in other district wide efforts (i.e., hosting prominent community figures, community service, etc.) which strengthens the experience and interest in students wanting to participate.

For the board, having a student representative/committee means they can gain investment and critical insight on the front end of key decisions and policies. The result has been time saved and strengthened student/family and district relationships.

CPS has several effective programs to galvanize student leadership (see section one for specific program details), however, none of those programs is currently positioned to inform board decision making or practice. Options in which the board may leverage these existing groups are listed at the end of this document. (*Erin Bledsoe, 2017*)

Ms. Bledsoe proposed that the District use existing CPS programs or establish new processes for student representation after speaking with Superintendent Ronan.

A copy of Ms. Bledsoe's full report is available in the Board office.

ACTION: With the help of Pat Neal-Miller, Ms. Bledsoe will prepare a draft presentation for Superintendent Ronan's Student Leadership Team's April 2017 meeting. In that meeting draft, Ms. Bledsoe will include:

- 1) Explanation of what the Board does and its structure;
- 2) Information on the Board's interest in integrating student voice in policy decisions;
- 3) Information on how other districts have incorporated student voice;
- 4) Information on students' interest in being representatives to the district; and
- 5) Their input on how this could be structured in CPS.

Policy 5113 – Inter-District Open Enrollment

Dan Hoying, General Counsel

Mr. Hoying reported that changes were made to the policy to clarify that OPEN-ENROLLMENT students moving from preschool to kindergarten, elementary school to high school, or students that moved out of District would be required to RE-APPLY FOR OPEN ENROLLMENT.

The opinion of the Board was that students who live within the District should get first preference over open enrolled students. There is also concern about disrupting those students already enrolled and not being able to open-enroll back into their school due to the lack of available of seats.

The Committee asked Sarah Trimble-Oliver, CIO, for data on how many in-district students applied for seats in grades that were full and had open-enrollment students in them. She reported that there were 39 elementary students and 17 high school students that were open-enrolled in grades that were full and in-district students had applied for seats. Mrs. Trimble-Oliver and Mr. Myles reported that because the numbers are so small and are across multiple schools and grade levels, moving forward we should be able to accommodate both the open-enrolled students and in-district students. They also reported that the number of open-enrollment students is trending down.

Mr. Hoying informed the Committee that the following language has been added to the policy:

For a CPS resident family who moves out of the District during the school year, the District shall use its best efforts to maintain the enrollment of the student at the same school for the duration of the current school year. After the school year, the family is required to re-enroll through the open enrollment process.

The following priority was also added to Section One of the document; placement into the school will be made according to the following priority:

Students currently enrolled into the District without a parent who is employed by the District. This includes students who were enrolled previously as an in-district student but who have moved out of the District and students currently open-enrolled in the District who are transitioning from preschool to kindergarten and from elementary school to high school;

ACTION: The Committee will recommend approval of the policy at the February 27, 2017 Regular Board meeting

Policy 5111.01 – Homeless Students: Continued Discussion

Dan Hoying, Legal Counsel

Mr. Hoying updated the Committee on suggested changes that were discussed at the December 12, 2016 Policy Committee meeting around students experiencing homelessness and their “school of origin,” especially that language which refers to what happens when families and the District disagree on what school is determined to be in the student’s best interest.

Mr. Hoying revised the paragraph of the policy to make it clear that the first option considered is the student’s school of origin and then what steps are taken if that isn’t feasible (e.g., distance).

He also updated the definition of “homeless,” verbatim, as defined by the United States Department of Education, due to the Ohio Department of Education’s definition still including language around children being in foster care.

The Committee also revised the title of the policy to: *Students Experiencing Homelessness*.

ACTION: The Committee will recommend approval of the policy at the February 27, 2017 Regular Board meeting.

Policy 8515 – Wellness

Dr. Kevin Jamison, Student Services, Assistant Director

Dr. Jamison updated the Committee on the following edits to the policy.

- Change language from “Support” to “Encourage” where necessary
- Change time of day requirements on physical activity
- Some schools don’t have recess – language has to account for this.
- District Wellness Committee (DWC) oversight of implementation, monitoring and communication

Goal Area 3

- Add the implementation of the Employee Wellness Program “in cooperation with the district’s benefits committee”

Goal Area 4

- Change “(approved) water bottles” to “keep hydrated during the school day”

- Make distinction of “non-food service vending machines” in relationship to “Vending Machines” and “School Stores”

Goal Area 4 – School Meals and Nutrition: School Meals Policy Guidelines

- Remove “appealing, attractive and pleasing”
- Remove “lunch following recess”

Goal Area 6

- Remove reference to “All students” in Goal Area 6 language
- Remove PE throughout the school year as a requirement for elementary schools
- Physical Education teachers required to maintain license
- Kept waivers and exemptions for physical education “may be granted” for students with disabilities, 504 etc.

Goal Area 7

- Adjust language regarding recess and physical activities

ACTION: The Administration will update the Board about the Policy at the June 7, 2017 Regular meeting, and for possible approval at this meeting.

Policy 3220 – Teacher Evaluation

Yenetta Harper, Director of Teacher and Principal Development & Evaluation

Ms. Harper reported that she had no changes to the policy. Any changes would occur after receiving any revisions from the Ohio Department of Education in June or August of 2017.

Ms. Harper reported that currently teachers that rank *Accomplished* are being evaluated every other year and now have an opportunity to be evaluated in the third year. *Skilled* teachers are currently being evaluated every year. There is also opportunity to evaluate them every other year. There is also language available from the State to change the terms of evaluations, but will need Board approval.

Mrs. Hoffman reported that there was push back from the Board, but if CFT and the Administrators recommended that evaluations take place every other year, the Policy Committee would make a recommendation to the Board for the every other year evaluations.

ACTION: The Policy Committee will recommend that the Policy be discussed at the April 5, 2017 Regular Board meeting and that concerns and questions be submitted to Ms. Harper a week in advance of the meeting. The policy will then be recommended for approval in June 2017, and any additional changes that come from the State after June 2017 will be addressed for any necessary revisions at a later date.

Policy 3220.01 – School Counselor Evaluation

Yenetta Harper, Director of Teacher & Principal Development and Evaluation

Ms. Harper reiterated that the policy is new and was adopted at the Board’s September 12, 2016 Regular meeting. The policy is not in full implementation and she has been reviewing the document with the school counselors and Principals. Principals will be trained in June 2017 to become credentialed in order to move the policy into full implementation. The policy will be up for review in year 2018.

Policy 7560.01 – Creation of High Quality Schools

The Board adopted the Creation of High Quality Schools policy at its February 8, 2016 Regular Board meeting. The Policy Committee reviewed the document at its November 7, 2016 meeting and amended the policy to include the following language:

On at least an annual basis, the Board shall require a report regarding the progress of any community schools that it sponsors or supports. Such report shall include a review of the academic achievement and financial accountability of the school.

ACTION: The Policy Committee will recommend approval of the policy at the Board’s March 6, 2017 Regular meeting.

Annual Magnet Enrollment Review

Sarah Trimble Oliver

Mrs. Trimble-Oliver reported that the first round of the lottery is closed and the second round is open and that demographic data was not yet available for the first round. She reported that as of February 13, 2017, 16 percent of round one enrollments have been completed. She will provide data at the March 2017 Policy Committee meeting.

She reported that enrollment deadlines were extended due to bringing Spencer into the enrollment process and the need to revise letters of communication.

Ms. Trimble Oliver and Mrs. Neal-Miller reported that they are working on getting data from last year’s lottery.

Mrs. Hoffman inquired if data from last year’s lottery and potential data from this year’s round one are trending in the right direction as it relates to racial, economic, and geographic diversity at the highest demand magnet schools. Ms. Jones and Mrs. Hoffman agreed that at least one to two years of data would establish a more informed baseline to establish measurable goals.

ACTION: Ms. Trimble-Oliver will continue to track the data and update the Committee as requested.

Facilities Usage

Robin Brandon, Facilities Project Coordinator

Ms. Brandon reported that schools are doing good work in making sure that applications for use of the buildings are forwarded to the Facilities department for processing. She also advised that the process is working well.

Her summary included the following data for use of the facilities.

	Approvals	Denials	Cancellations	Pending	Other	Totals
Community	109	8	3	44		164
Athletic	85	17	2	71		175
Schools	26	2		8		36
Others	1	2		2		5
Grand Totals	221	29	5	125		380

She reported that denials are usually due to schedule conflicts with multiple groups wanting to use the facility on the same day.

The amount of applications pending is due to groups wanting to use the facility on several days of the week for several months. The requests stay held as pending. Applicants sometimes do not inform facilities that they no longer need the facility, which leaves the request pending. Facilities will call the requestor to find out the status.

Mr. Nelms inquired as to the amount of requests for use of the gyms and the sports fields. Ms. Brandon reported that the Athletic category is mostly gym requests. She also emphasized that she receives multiple requests for use of the gyms for basketball leagues.

Ms. Brandon will provide the Committee with information on the number of request that come from out-of-district for use of the facilities.

Committee Chair Jones advised Ms. Brandon to provide updates about facility use when necessary using email. She also informed the group that the Committee will continue to monitor use of facilities on a yearly basis in July. She also advised to present data by school.

Other Business

OSBA Essential Policies

Mr. Hoying will review the policies to determine if there are any that need to be updated and inform Policy Committee at the March meeting, if necessary.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM.

Policy Committee

Carolyn Jones , Chair
Elisa Hoffman
A. Chris Nelms

Staff Liaisons

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