

OAK PARK AND RIVER FOREST HIGH SCHOOL

201 NORTH SCOVILLE AVENUE • OAK PARK, IL 60302-2296

Parent Teacher Advisory Committee
Thursday, March 13, 2014
3:30 – 5 p.m. – Conference Room 174

Nina Allen (Thrive)	Brian Beyers (SID)	Janel Bishop (Chair - SID)
Randy Braverman (OPRF)	Michael Byars (OPRF)	Linda Caprile (Parent)
Deloris Collins (OPRF)	Holly Economus (Parent)	Suze Ferrier (OPRF)
Luis Flores (Parent)	Cathleen Martin (OPRF)	Esteban Medina (OPRF)
Jackie Moore (BOE)	Allison Myers (OPRF)	Melissa Potrawski (OP Township)
Manuel Ruiz (SRO)	Courtney Sakellaris (OPRF)	Jonathon Silver (SID)
Marvin Walker (OPRF)	David Walksler (OPRF)	Jeff Weissglass (BOE)
Barry Williams (Student)	Gladys Wright (OPRF)	Kayla York (Student)

Introductions were made by all in attendance.

Purpose of Meetings -- The Board of Education (BOE) policy regarding this committee's work was outlined. The BOE is the policy-making body that will be asked to act upon the recommendations that come forth from this group for the discipline policy. The SIDS have been polling issues and problems encountered within other meetings and referenced the 2013-14 1st Semester Discipline Report as a target for discussion. The entire committee was asked to join a sub-committee to address concerns they felt passionate about. There is a short amount of time for this group to complete its work and 4 meeting dates have been set aside to accomplish the tasks.

Topics to be Covered

Attendance/Plasco Tardy System – We struggle with tardies each year and have implemented new things to address this problem. Plasco Tardy System keeps track of the number of tardies a student has received. Four tardies are allowed, per semester, prior to a student getting a detention. Some students are motivated to serve their detentions as it is a condition for them to be able to attend extra- curricular events. There is a large population of students who get detentions but also don't attend events. There are many incentives in place to encourage students to serve detentions, (e.g., if a student attends the Tutoring Center, it cuts their detention time in half). Plasco slips are detailed and show the number of tardies a student has. Plasco and Skyward's technology don't communicate well with each other. Skyward may show a student with 6 tardies however Plasco may show 12. We have compared several companies to Plasco, but none stack up better at this time. 1st period classes continue to have the most tardies.

A point was made that it would be helpful if a legend were in Skyward that speaks to what a detention means and also to have a link to policies related to attendance. A question was asked if we should, as a school, be providing or answering "why" you are late to class. Is there some way that we can change the thoughts of students as to why it is important to be on time.

Issues to be addressed are listed below:

Since 1st period has the most tardies, should we look at 1st period tardies differently than other periods?

After 4 absences, a student may be dropped and sent to a study hall. How do we address class cuts/ absences? Should we drop students? What should happen when there are too many absences? What are some ways we can stay connected to kids who are not motivated that are not punitive?

Restorative Justice/Peace Circles – Peer Mediation was a program that was in place for over 30 years at OPRF. Staff felt that it was a positive program and that it helped cut suspensions rates. This program taught students how to resolve conflict and allowed them to voice their concerns in a safe and open environment. Students were encouraged to be honest about their feelings and to share information about different issues they faced. Peer Mediation was very effective, however confidentiality was a concern. It was asked if there were additional ideas around restorative justice and if we could have conversations that are larger than peace circles.

Advisory Period/Mentor Program – Discussion focused on why it is beneficial to have an advisory period. It was suggested that this initiative could tie into BOE goal 2, helping students become successful.

Community Service – Many schools partner with local businesses and organizations to allow students the opportunity to give back. OPRF does not require or mandate that students do community service. A statement was made that we explore community service for our students as a requirement and that it not be tied to discipline. Officer Ruiz will bring information regarding OPPD's adjudication program.

Cell Phones/Technology Policy – Students are allowed to use their cell phones for assignments in their classrooms, with permission from their teachers and also in specified areas of the school. Are we comfortable with the policy as it stands?

Suspension Reduction Program – When a student is suspended, the suspension reduction program (SRP) will allow that student to reduce the suspension days, contingent upon their successful completion of specialized counseling/education or drug programs. The reduction is 50% and is extended once per academic year to the student. Is there a desire to amend this program?

Formation of Sub-groups: Committee members were asked to submit 2-3 topics they would like to work on and forward their choices to Ms. Bishop. We will address the sub-groups at our next meeting on next Thursday, March 20 at 3:30 p.m.

Open Public Meeting Act: Everyone on the committee is required to be trained in the Open Public Meeting Act. The link for the training will be forwarded to each person. After completing the training, all will need to print and bring their certificates so they are filed. To participate on this committee, everyone must take the training.

Adjournment: All thanked for their participation on this committee and the work that will come forth. The meeting ended at 5:02 p.m.