

# Oak Park and River Forest High School

## **Joint Committee on Student Discipline Thursday, April 12, 2012**

**Present:** Nate Rouse (chair), Terry Finnegan (via phone), Jim Goodfellow, Dana Horowitz, Bonnie Jackson (parent), Leigh Remack, John Terretta, Claire Walter, Jeremiah Wiencek, Paul Wright, Eva Zeidner (parent) and Deloris Collins (recorder)

The 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Joint Committee on Student Discipline for the 2012-13 school year convened at 3:30 p.m. on April 12, 2012 in the Board Room. Introductions of all attendees were made.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Semester Discipline Report**

The 1<sup>st</sup> semester discipline report submitted to the BOE in March, 2012 was distributed and discussed in detail. It was stated that while looking at the ISS and OSS suspensions statistics, addressing and have alternatives to suspensions is necessary. The importance of having representation from our BOE was stressed as they are the voice to moving any policy changes forward. All policy changes must be approved by the BOE. The members were informed that this committee platform is the opportunity to state any changes to the Student Handbook.

### **Code of Conduct**

A copy of the current Matrix and Code of Conduct were provided to the committee and discussed. It was stated that the timeline for planning and having the Student Handbook approved is upon us. Although the deadline for having all changes approved and ready for the printer by early July, there is sufficient time to complete the tasks.

### **Cell Phone Policy**

It was agreed that our current policy for cell phones has to be updated. Many of our students now have smart phones and the technology and apps allow the user up-to-the-minute information. Specifics about how and when our students use the phones were also discussed. It was stated that some of the schools in the West Suburban Conference have modified their phone policy to allow usage during school time. It was stated that we must find a balance on how to permit students to utilize their smart phones during school (i.e. lunch, study hall, passing periods). A suggestion was made that we survey our students and ask them “in what ways do you use your smart phone?”

### **Fighting and Bullying**

It was stated that we must work toward alternative suspension reduction programs for our students to think about changed behavior. It was shared that the Deans title are changing for the next school year to reflect a more positive approach to student behaviors. Their new titles will be changed to Student Intervention Directors. The deans know the students best and will continue to assist with more hands-on support.

### **Detentions**

It was reported that based on the Weekly Infraction Report, Failure to Serve Detentions account for 80% of student infractions. Discussions ensued regarding how to clearly

state our expectation that all students must be in class and on time. A question was asked as to how do we get the students involved in the process that its not ok to disrupt the learning process. A suggestion was made that all teachers receive the weekly Infraction Report and maybe use co-curricular and activities as leverage to deter students who have failing grades.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 26, from 3:30 – 4:45 in the Board Room. The discussions will focus on:

- 1) cell phone policy and procedures;
- 2) alternatives to suspensions;
- 3) ways to reduce OSS and ISS

Attachment: 1<sup>st</sup> Semester Discipline Report for school year 2010-11