

Oak Park and River Forest High School

Parent Teacher Advisory Committee (PTAC)

Conference Room 201

Thursday, March 19, 2015; 3:30 – 5:00 pm

Present: Brian Beyers (SID), Aleta Clardy (Parent), Linda Francis (Parent), Steve Gevinson (BOE), Naomi Hildner (Faculty), Stephen Jackson (Parent), Nate Rouse (Chair), Jonathan Silver (SID), Alisa Walton (SID), Deloris Collins (Recorder)

Absent: Lauren Achurra (Faculty), Janel Bishop (SID), Justin Maxwell (Student), Carolina Schoenbeck (Faculty)

Visitors: Qiana Carswell (Parent), Sharon Patchak-Layman

Call to Order & Roll Call:

The Parent Teacher Advisory Committee (PTAC) meeting was held on Thursday, March 19, 2015 in Conference Room 201. Nate Rouse called the meeting to order at 3:35 pm.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion to approve the minutes of March 12, 2015 was made by Naomi Hildner. The motion was seconded by Stephen Jackson.

Comments:

None.

Follow-up Recommendation:

The question was asked if we could go back to the language that was used in previous years in the student planner to define plagiarism and academic dishonesty. Nate responded that we can make a recommendation to bring back a procedure and list it in the handbook but also asked where would we like to see this land, with the SIDs, with the Counselors, or in another area? There are many may's and shall's in the planner and it allows for much discretion for teachers. If and when students are caught, this information is not shared with everyone. We would need a document that speaks to where the responsibility would be held. Although we cannot change policy, we can recommend a procedure on how to handle academic dishonesty. The procedures can be drawn up and brought to this committee so that everyone could see the outcome.

Steve Gevinson indicated that we should have a procedure that addresses plagiarism and academic dishonesty and that he would like to see the administrative staff draw up explicit and precise procedures to follow. It was expressed that we should have these procedures but they should not be developed in this committee.

It was shared that the goal is to have academic dishonesty in the student planner as a procedure. Before the procedure is approved by the BOE, it will be vetted thru this group, shared with the school, our parent organizations, the Policy Committee and then the entire BOE votes on it.

The discussion continued about drawing up procedures on academic dishonesty and the importance of sending the same message to each student. If penalties are handed out, it must be equitable for everyone. Our wording must be exact as there are different levels for defining plagiarism and academic dishonesty. May indicates some discretion and will indicates an expectation. It was shared that the BOE will determine if it is a “may” or “will” based on the feedback from this group. The school also uses a computer program that helps with catching plagiarism. Nate will talk with the Division Heads and teachers relative to the decision making.

IDs:

The question was asked if we want to require staff and students to wear IDs and if there is another way to address behavior, other than sending students to SIDs when they don't wear them? It was shared that the ID policy came about with the Modified Closed Campus procedures to identify Seniors/Juniors who could be allowed off-campus lunch and Freshmen/Sophomores who had closed campus lunches. The IDs identify us for safety reasons, it allows students to scan into other parts of the building, and they are for classroom entry and are used for attendance purposes.

The committee felt that everyone should wear an ID for the reasons stated above. It was expressed that maybe we should not make students wear them but they must have them on them to get into the classroom and scanned entry areas. Due to the large number of detentions, it may not be worth the cost to make a student wear their ID. For safety reasons and to quickly identify who should be in the building, the majority felt that everyone should wear their IDs including teachers and staff. We must be consistent with modeling the behavior we want students to exhibit.

1st Semester Discipline Report:

The rough draft will be shared with the committee. We will create a restorative justice narrative that speaks to the things done that are readily identified (peer mediation without consequences). We focus on statistics that speak to consequences, but there are not many mediations that show the interventions. We will start to code these so this group will be advised.

Our work is to pull together the recommendations to give to the BOE for the Code of Conduct. We can revisit the recommendations made from last year's report relative to the student handbook. There is a Strategic Planning and Implementation Team which we can probably forward some of the other items from last year's report to them for further development. This group is for the Code of Conduct only. Steve Gevinson stated that we should look at restorative justices as these practices address conduct of the students. It was stated that we would look at the Code of Conduct to address and make necessary

changes. As a committee, we can make a recommendation to explore restorative justice options.

The 1st semester statistics from the 2014-15 school year would be shared with the entire committee next week. We will have conversations next week about the areas we want to address in the Code of Conduct.

Adjournment:

Mr. Rouse moved to adjourn the PTAC Meeting at 5 p.m. The move was seconded by Mr. Stephen Jackson.