

**Oak Park and River Forest High School
201 North Scoville Avenue
Oak Park, IL 60302**

**POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
August 15, 2006**

A Policy Committee meeting was held on Tuesday, August 15, 2006, in the Board Room of the Oak Park and River Forest High School. Chair Dr. Millard called the meeting to order at 10:25 a.m. Committee members present were Barbara P. Fernandez, Valerie J. Fisher, Dr. Barry S. Greenwald, Dr. Dietra D. Millard, Yasmin A. Ranney, and John P. Rigas. Also present were Dr. Susan J. Bridge, Superintendent/Principal; Jason Edgecombe, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources; Cheryl L. Witham, Chief Financial Officer; Philip M. Prale, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction; and Gail Kalmerton, Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board.

Visitors included: Kay Foran, Director of Community Relations and Communications; Pat Graham, F.S.E.C. representatives; Terry Burke, parent.

Policy Committee Minutes of June 15, 2006

It was the consensus of the Policy Committees to accept the Policy Committee minutes of June 15, 2006, to stand as presented.

Consideration of Polices for First Reading

Policy 3310, Contracts/Purchasing

Ms. Witham presented a complete revision to Policy 3310, Contracts/Purchasing, drafted by the school's attorney, which now incorporates current law and cites law references, rather than having separate line items in the policy. It was the consensus of the Policy Committee members to have Ms. Witham clarify with the attorney about the requirement that bus companies mandate that their bus drivers be fingerprinted for a further discussion at the September Policy Committee meeting.

In addition, the Policy Committee members agreed to the following enhancements and/or amendments:

- Wherever it refers to superintendent add the words "or designee."
- Page 1, Item A, line 2: replace "rice" with "race"
- Page 1, Item A: add "sexual orientation" to the list of nondiscriminatory reasons for hiring.
- Page 1, Item C, line 5: replace "front" with "from"
- Page 1, Item D, line 2: replace "is" with "it"
- Page 2, Item F, line 4: replace "Roles" with "Rules"
- Page 6, Item III, 2nd para, line 2: replace "Lip" with "up"

- Page 6, Item V, line 6: delete “of the”
- Page 7, Item A, 1, line 7: replace “crimincal” with “criminal”
- Page 7, Item B, line 2: replace “whill” with “will”
- Page 7, Item B, 2, line 1: replace “perate” with “operate”

Policy 5143, Administration of Medications

Mr. Edgecombe informed the Committee members that Policy 5143, Administration of Medications, was being revised to accommodate the new law regarding self-administration of Epinephrine. Changes to the policy had been drafted by the school’s attorney. It was suggested that the policy be reviewed by the school nurse and to bring the policy back to the Committee for first reading at its September meeting.

Discussion of Policy 1200, Board of Education

Discussion ensued regarding the status of Policy 1200. Mr. Edgecombe shared with the Policy Committee members a legal opinion from Julie Heuberger, District Counsel. After reading proposed Policy 1200, Board of Education again, Mr. Rigas reiterated that the only sentence being changed was the one concerning the rules of the road that says only after following the procedures listed above, the Board of Education president may allow a member of the community to speak in closed session if the request is submitted in writing. The community members who are objecting to it are already following those procedures. They have usually written many emails and letters. The exceptions to their speaking publicly are outlined in the Illinois Open Meetings Act. The Board of Education must enforce the policy and the onus will fall on the president to enforce what already exists.

Therefore, it was the consensus of the committee members to not amend Policy 1200, Board of Education.

It was the consensus of the Committee members that generic parameters be laid out in the president’s opening remarks, i.e., the Board of Education has the right to limit, to confine, and/or restrict the total amount of time if the comments are repetitive or abusive. Ms. Fisher agreed that the public needs to be aware of the rules and that the policy puts them on notice. She felt the Board of Education had to be the model of civility. If others choose to misbehave then that is their responsibility. The president of the Board of Education should serve as the parliamentarian and inform speakers, on an as needed basis, not to mention names. The majority of the committee members concurred.

It was also the consensus of the Committee members to add a column titled “topic” to the speaker sign-up sheet used at the Board of Education meetings.

Discussion ensued about shifting the public comment section to later in the meetings and to limiting the time one can speak. No changes were made, however.

Ms. Foran, as the director of public relations, also concurred with the Board of Education's decision to not alter this policy. She acknowledged the Board of Education members' expression of themselves and maintenance of their own dignity and that setting parameters upfront is all one should do. Her experience confirmed that this part of being a Board of Education member comes with the territory. She stated that while it is difficult, unfair, and does sometimes border on being slanderous, only a handful of people who have these issues. She did note, however, that other people's time at the meetings on other agenda items needed to be respected as well.

Dr. Greenwald was informed that the law governs those are allowed to accompany a visitor into closed session and only the persons involved are invited into closed session.

Adjournment

The Policy Committee adjourned at 11:39 a.m.