

OAK PARK AND RIVER FOREST HIGH SCHOOL
201 North Scoville Avenue
Oak Park, IL 60302

Policy Evaluation and Goals Committee
February 16, 2016

A Policy Evaluation and Goals Committee meeting was held on February 16, 2016. Chair Spivy called the meeting to order at 5:58 p.m. in the Board Room. Committee members present were Jennifer Cassell, Dr. Steven Gevinson, and Sara Spivy. Also present were Dr. Steven T. Isoye, Superintendent; David Ruhland, Director of Human Resources; Philip M. Prale, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction; Sheila Hardin, Faculty Senate Executive Committee Chair; and Gail Kalmerton, Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board.

Visitors: John Hoerster, John Stelzer, Lincoln Chandler, Dave and Shannon, athletic trainers.

Public Comments

None

Minutes

Ms. Cassell moved to approve the minutes of its January 19, 2016 meeting, as presented; seconded by Dr. Gevinson. A voice vote resulted in motion carried.

Policies for First Reading

Dr. Gevinson moved to forward the following policies to the Board of Education for approval of first reading at its regular February meeting; seconded by Ms. Cassell. A voice vote resulted in motion carried.

5:330 Sick Days, Vacation, Holidays, and Leaves	A new type of Leave (Service as an election judge) is added to reflect legislation, and a legal reference is added.
6:20 School Year Calendar and Day	Legal references are updated.
6:280 Grading and Promotion	Policy, Legal references, and Cross references are amended to reflect legislative actions with respect to academic standards and the assessment of students.

Policy 4:142, Bookstore Operations

Discussion ensued about the Bookstore operations. No state law exists that says bookstores have to be self-sustaining. Ms. Spivy objected philosophically to the charging of fees. Dr. Gevinson noted that the implementation of user fees approximately 25 years ago as a way to

avoid increasing taxes broadly, and yet raise the needed funds. Ms. Cassell was concerned about students paying the Bookstore personnel's salaries and benefits, which amount to approximately \$300,000, but did not object to that in the Food & Nutrition Department. She was also concerned about a technology fee. Dr. Isoye noted that the Food Service policy was implemented in 1960 and the Bookstore policy in 1970. It was philosophically supported by past boards.

One member suggested for those families who qualify for the Free & Reduced Lunch Program also receiving the corresponding benefit with regard to IMF fees. This would eliminate the need for submitting tax returns, automatically transferring the information to the Bookstore. The District would then subsidize these students, not the current students. A suggestion was also made to revisit the District's audit of the students' qualifications. One member wanted to see how much this would reduce IMF fee. One member felt the entire Board of Education should discuss this as FRE students are already being subsidized by the other students who are buying their books and this would cause a policy change. Dr. Gevinson agreed that other parents should not pick up the fees of the FRE students; it should be the District's responsibility.

Discussion ensued about self-sustaining, which means that the revenue received will cover all of the costs of the operation. Self-sustaining is unique to OPRFHS. Because the District pays approximately \$35,000 in credit card fees, one member suggested encouraging people to pay cash.

One member asked whether the Board of Education should consider closing the Bookstore.

Ms. Spivy stated that a new policy would be drafted for the committee's review, and then if approved, the full Board of Education could discuss and define what the budget could bear. Dr. Gevinson would add the qualifier "except for FRE". How much money would that be if the FRE qualification were brought to the Bookstore?

Dr. Isoye noted that this was the first discussion relative to changes to FRE and the Bookstore. It would have a financial and policy impact. Procedures would be impacted, and the District will have to look at the long-term impact and projection modeling. If the District were to pay these fees, would they come out of the fund balance, other revenues or would the District have to trim what it is doing in order to compensate for what comes out of fund balance? Dr. Gevinson wanted the full Board of Education to discuss this and asked the administration to draft a new policy, prepare a chart for the next meeting relative to fees, and to reach out to see how bookstores are operating in other schools.

Policy 7:30, Student Athlete Concussions and Head Injuries

Policy 7:30, Student Athlete Concussions and Head Injuries is a rewritten policy which has not been approved by the House and is not law. Dr. Gevinson was concerned about the issue of concussions after learning about the dangers to the brain, specifically football, but they occur in other high impact sports as well. He read about the superintendent of a high school who canceled the football program for safety reasons, although the turnout was not great. While Dr. Gevinson believes football is a great spectator sport, he felt the Board of Education had a special responsibility with regard to the safety of the students if the risks and

dangers he had read about were legitimate. The rewritten policy does not address some of the key issues that exist, such as repetitive trauma that does not necessarily translate to a concussion. It is the asymptomatic hits and continued playing that can cause permanent brain damage. Concussions are not the whole problem, and one cannot diagnose whether a hit is damaging. Dr. Gevinson felt the Board of Education should determine if it has a legal liability, beyond this policy, because it is likely that students could sustain injuries that this policy does not address. He also wanted to explore constructing a policy about collision sports. He noted that devices exist that can be put inside football helmets or mouthpieces that can record hits. There may be ways to better monitor than this policy, but he did not have that expertise. Ms. Spivy was hesitant to go deeper into the neuroscience and giving parents false reassurance. This is a burgeoning field of research, and the Board of Education would need to look at soccer, lacrosse, etc., as well. She noted too that students participating in sports have better grades and would need to weigh in on this subject as well. Ms. Cassell concurred with Ms. Spivy.

Mr. Rouse noted that concussions occur in not just football, but in PE classes as well. The procedures of the athletic trainers are impressive. Mr. Stelzer reviewed procedures.

- 1) Student waiver and participation forms need to be signed, revised by the attorney a couple of years ago, and they incorporated the IHSA rules. (Committee members asked that these forms be sent to them.)
- 2) Parents receive handouts on concussion protocols at freshman orientation meetings.
- 3) Concussion protocols are posted online.
- 4) Athletic trainers have very strict guidelines for replay, and when they are in doubt, athletes do not play.
- 5) Neurosurgeons talk with coaches and parents.
- 6) Coaches and students must also watch a video.

Athletic trainer Dave Heidloff reported that during the 2014-15 school year, 1,800 student-athletes participated in OPRFHS athletic teams. In 2014-15, 59 concussions were sustained. The national rate for concussions is .49 concussions per 1,000 athletic exposures. An athletic exposure is defined as a practice, team activity or game. OPRFHS' concussion rate would be formulated as follows: 1800 athletes, times a 12-week season, times 6 exposures per week, or 129,600 exposures per year. At a rate of .49 per 1000, that would predict 63.5 per year. Thus, OPRFHS is slightly under the national average.

So far this school year (Aug. 2015 through January 2016) we have had 30 concussions. We are at approximately the same rate as last year, as we are half way through the school year. One member asked if the protocols would capture the concerns voiced by Dr. Gevinson. The definition of subconcussive is broad and it is very new and a burgeoning area. The District wants all athletes to be in the safest environment and has doctors and trainers who do an outstanding job of educating parents and monitoring the students. Mr. Stelzer will provide hard data as to how many concussions were had by OPRFHS students. Last year, the District was under the national norm. OPRFHS does not sponsor boxing or hockey because of safety reasons.

Dr. Gevinson thought to focus on concussions was not the whole story and that the District should look further into safety issues. Dr. Gevinson will share with all of the Board of Education members some of his readings on this matter.

The committee recessed at 6:45 p.m. and resumed at 8:04 p.m.

Superintendent Evaluation Instrument

Ms. Spivy and Mr. Ruhland continue to work on the evaluation instrument of the superintendent and will have it ready for discussion at the March meeting.

Update on PTAC and Restorative Justice

The membership of the PTAC Committee is being developed and will be presented to the Board of Education for approval. The facilitators feel that a better outcome will occur if more time is spent at the beginning and thus it is anticipated that the committee will start in April and will complete its work in a one-year timeframe.

New Business

None

Adjournment

At 8:06 p.m., Ms. Spivy moved to adjourn the Policy Evaluation and Goals Committee; seconded by Ms. Cassell. A voice vote resulted in motion carried.

Submitted by
Gail Kalmerton
Clerk of the Board