

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

Policy Evaluation and Goals Committee
March 22, 2016

A Policy Evaluation and Goals Committee meeting was held on March 22, 2016. Chair Spivy called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.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 Pupil Support Services; Sheila Hardin, Faculty Senate Executive Committee Chair; and Gail Kalmerton, Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board.

Visitors: Jackie Charrette-BassiriRad, Director of Bookstore

Public Comments

None

Minutes

Ms. Cassell moved to approve the minutes of its February 16, 2016, meeting, with the following amendment; seconded by Dr. Gevinson. A voice vote resulted in motion carried.

Add discussion of the number of concussions experienced at OPRFHS last year as compared to the national average.

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 March meeting, except for H, and to move I to the full Board of Education for first reading; seconded by Ms. Cassell. A voice vote resulted in motion carried.

Policy 2:160, Board Attorney	The policy clarifies that Boards may have more than one attorney or law firm. It provides the text of the Illinois Supreme Court's rules governing professional conduct. Clarifies when an attorney will be at meetings. Updates legal reference.
Policy 2:250, Access to District Public Records Rewritten	Allows for a status update to FOIA's. Freedom of Information Officer Appointment. Administration recommends Option C where the superintendent appoints the FOIA Officer. For oral FOIA requests, the person is asked to put the request in writing for the record. Time periods extend for voluminous requests. Language about fees was added for efficiency

	<p>and to avoid paraphrasing a complex law. The recommendation is not to accept Option 3 and to use the reduction in fee paragraph as stated. Recommends to use the language as is for Provisions for Copies and Access to Records and not use Options 4 or 5. No discussion.</p>
<p>Policy 6:140, Education of Homeless Children</p>	<p>Edit added for clarity. Updates legal references.</p> <p>Students/families sign an affidavit to being homeless and work with West 40. If someone starts at OPRFHS and then moves to another school district, OPRFHS must provide transportation.</p>
<p>Policy 7:100, Health and Eye Examinations; Immunizations; and Exclusion of Students</p>	<p>Policy amended in response to PA 99-249. Language about the Certificate of Religious Exemption form was added. Updates to legal and cross references. No discussion.</p>
<p>Policy 7:130, Student Rights and Responsibilities</p>	<p>Policy amended in response to PA 99-410. Paragraph added regarding non-disruptive prayer or religious based meetings, consistent with the Free Exercise and Establishment Clauses of the Illinois and US Constitutions. These may not be sponsored or endorsed in any manner by the school or any school employee. Updates cross-references.</p> <p>Discussion ensued regarding the last sentence about non-instructional time. Are schools required to set aside non-instructional time during, before or after school? What is non-instructional time? One member questioned whether this was a way to get prayer in schools. If students start praying at the flagpole, can the school prohibit?</p>
<p>Policy 7:140, Search and Seizure</p>	<p>The policy is amended in response to the Right to Privacy Act and PA 99-460 regarding passwords, parent notification, and content of social networking sites. No discussion.</p>
<p>Policy 7:290, Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention Rewritten - New to District</p>	<p>A suicide awareness and prevention policy is required by Ann Marie's Law, 105 ILCS 5/2-3.163(c), amended by PA 99-443. No discussion.</p>

**7:300, Extracurriculars & 7:305,
Student Athlete**

Discussion ensued about whether Policy 7:305 was sufficiently adequate as written to respond to student health. Ms. Spivy understood Dr. Gevinson's viewpoint but felt that if the District were too involved in the science, it would not be able to assure families of their safety. Families also have the right to determine the appropriate risk for their children's health.

Dr. Gevinson reported that Mayo Clinic had conducted a study on the brains of 100 people who had competed in nonprofessional contact sports, and 32 were found to have CTE. Were these people using the most updated technology? The games of football and soccer could be made safer by eliminating headers. Wrestling does not have head butting, but a helmet could be worn. If football had not existed as an interscholastic sport, the District would not have sponsored it until it was safe. This country has an entrenched culture and the school, and this committee is suggesting the lowest common question on safety for which the results of it do not show up for years. Mouthguards can determine the degree of the hit, but they very expensive and currently the high school does not use them. Because this is new information, Dr. Gevinson recommended that people in the community with expertise in this area make a recommendation on what to do with head injury safety for athletes. Ms. Cassell agreed with both Ms. Spivy and Dr. Gevinson. While she would not let her son play football, it is the right of the parent to make the decision. The District should make them aware of the risk, and she believed there were experts in the community that could make a recommendation. She suggested looking at best practices at other schools. The suggestion was made to move this policy to the full Board of Education in July for review. Both policies 7:300 and 7:305 will not go forward for first reading. Policy 7:305 will go forward to the full Board of Education for discussion at its March 24 meeting, and to make a determination if a larger panel should do a deeper study.

Policy 7:340, Student Records	Policy language was updated for clarity about record sharing. The use of the term parental responsibility in place of custody and visitation. Updates legal references. No discussion.
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Fee Policy

It was the recommendation of the Policy Committee members via a 2:1 vote to bring the Board of Education the Bookstore policy forward for elimination and the IMF Fee forward as action at the March Board of Education meeting.

After researching the Bookstore operation, Ms. Spivy response was the following:

- 1) Personnel costs should not be part of the bookstore costs
- 2) Credit card purchase markup should be reviewed, i.e., using Paypal, etc.
- 3) Students should pay only for the cost of their materials, and not the markup from the other items the District is trying to sustain.
- 4) This would significantly reduce the costs students pay.

Dr. Gevinson supported non-paying students being removed from the cost of the paying students, but he supported including the other fees, i.e., personnel, etc. Food Service has always been an arbitrary category of fairness, and when someone is entitled to a free education, he/she does not pay for any fees; that has not been the case for books. Paying students are also picking up the salaries of Food Service personnel for those non-paying students. The current and past practice has been that the families pay the fees. OPRFHS students get a tremendous education through the taxes and pay relatively small fees versus private schools that are expensive and arguably provide no better education. Changing the structure would hurt the fund balance line and affect the timing of the referendum. Committee members reviewed a chart that showed the results of several options, going from the maximum fee to the \$0 and how that would affect revenue.

Ms. Cassell supported students paying a fee for books that excluded salaries and Free and Waived students. She saw a distinction between Food Services. The fee should be the burden of the taxpayers, not the users.

The Board of Education would have two choices about the policy: 1) reword the policy for first reading and then amend the policy in April, with no fee change until the policy change, or 2) eliminate the policy.

The administration’s recommendation is to maintain the IMF at \$320 for the next school year. Dr. Gevinson reiterated the demand on the education fund if the fee were changed, as the District might be able to pay for 3 or 4 teachers with it. He sees the philosophy but thinks it serves a good educational outcome.

Superintendent Evaluation Instrument

Ms. Dixon Spivy reported that the Board of Education would use the same superintendent evaluation instrument, incorporating suggestions from Mr. Weissglass, Mr. Cofsky.

Audio Recordings

The PEG Committee unanimously approved moving the report on the audio recording of meetings to the full Board of Education as an informational item. Ms. Dixon Spivy recommended expanding the recording of Board of Education meetings to include its regular meeting and special meetings, and to consider audio recording the Culture, Climate and Behavior Committee meetings. The number of topics determines the length of time it takes to breakdown the recording. Each time someone reviews each recording, it is added to the count. If an agenda has 12 items and someone reviewed the recording of each segment, the total number of the people reviewing it would be counted as 12.

Update on PTAC and Restorative Justice

A planning meeting will be held later that day on the Culture, Climate and Behavior Committee to talk about the timeline of topics. The District is reaching out to potential committee members.

New Business

Ms. Spivy will develop a policy that would prohibit the scheduling of Board of Education obligations on election nights as a way to model the importance of voting. Another member felt that holding a meeting on election night should not be a problem because people have the option of voting early.

Discussion ensued about a resident's request to lower the cost of using the tennis courts for private instructional use. If the District did so, it would have to change all of its fees. Presently, the public does not allow people to rent its facilities for a profit. Ms. Dixon Spivy was not interested lowering the fee for for-profit entities.

A community member made a request change the Board of Education policy that limits the number of exchange students so that more students are allowed to attend OPRFHS. It was the consensus of the majority of committee members not to change the policy because it is the taxpayers who bear the \$20,000 burden.

More discussion was desired on concussions.

Adjournment

At 8:45 a.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