

Guardian - Teacher Advisory Committee Meeting
 May 2, 2023
 4:00 - 5:00
 Minutes

Attendees:

Attendee	School(s)	Role
Lynn Glickman	All	Superintendent
Heather Lorenzo	All	Director of Student Services
Jen Garroway	GMS	Teacher
Charlene DeLeon-Cuevas	GMS, FS, MV	Parent/Guardian
Laura Golden	FS	Teacher
James Goschy	FS	Assistant Principal
Kaylie Lemke	FS	Parent/Guardian
Tara Kolek	MV	Teacher
Jen Voss	PC	Dean
Allison Lass	PC	Teacher
Holly Carlson	PC	Teacher
Kelly Desino	PC	Parent/Guardian
Lilia Erb	PV	Teacher
Casey Bloomer	PV	Parent/Guardian
Patrick Burns	WV	Teacher
Jennifer Dearlove	WV	Parent/Guardian
Tara Kolek	MV	Teacher
Karen Schweiss	MV	Parent/Guardian
Barbara Zarras	AV	Principal
Victoria Parrott	AV	Teacher
Rachel Sheahan	AV	Parent/Guardian

Purpose:

From Student Handbook:

The Superintendent will appoint a parent-teacher advisory committee composed of at least one parent representative from each school, one teacher representative from each school, a building administrator, and the superintendent or designee who will chair the committee. The committee will meet at least annually and submit recommendations with respect to policy guidelines on student discipline to the Board on or before the close of each school term.

From Policy 2:150:

Parent-Teacher Advisory Committee. This committee assists in the development of student behavior policy and procedure, and provides information and recommendations to the Board. Its members are parents/guardians and teachers, and may include persons whose expertise or experience is needed. The committee reviews such issues as administering medication in the schools, reciprocal reporting between the School District and local law enforcement agencies regarding criminal offenses committed by students, student discipline, disruptive classroom behavior, school bus safety procedures, and the dissemination of student conduct information.

From Policy 7:190

The Superintendent, with input from the parent-teacher advisory committee, shall prepare disciplinary rules implementing the District's disciplinary policies. These disciplinary rules shall be presented annually to the Board for its review and approval.

Resources

[Policy 2:150 Committees](#)

[Policy 7:190 Student Behavior](#)

[Student Handbook](#)

Agenda

- **Welcome, Introductions, and Thanks**

- **How does Board Policy generally get written? (Explanation of PRESS service)**

The Board of Education uses the PRESS Policy Service, which is available through the IASB (Illinois Association of School Boards). Laws are developed which inform PRESS to communicate to districts. The district then reviews new laws in relation to current policy and makes recommendations to the Board of Education to adopt. This includes new policy, removing policy, adding to policy, or amending policy to align with law or current practice.

- **Discussion topics for recommended revisions (from Committee Members)**

1) Gross Disobedience or Misconduct - Cheating (Do we still believe that cheating warrants suspension and/or expulsion? Do we need to be more specific as to the kind of cheating and/or frequency of the cheating behavior?)

Should there be degrees of severity with incidences of cheating? Could be instances of suspension if pervasive over time or other interventions/remedies are not resulting in a change.

No change to policy recommended.

2) Dress Code - Under the section for what students cannot wear there is a bullet point that alludes to the wearing of hoodies (as well as other items that obscure faces or ears). I am wondering if this is culturally responsive?

- *Currently students are not allowed to wear hoods up*
- *Concern for covering faces and ears so that they can not obscure earbuds*
- *If that is happening; inquire deeper about why is that occurring*
- *The answer in many cases is gathering more information*
- *Concerns about allowing hoodies due to given the safety issues we are facing now*

No change to policy recommended.

3) Students possessing, using, selling, or being under the influence of drugs or alcohol. It is listed under gross misconduct as well as its own section. How are consequences or responses determined?

Almost always will suspend with these types of situations.

No change to policy recommended.

4) Public Displays of Affection (PDA)

Current language (Prohibited Conduct #10)

Engaging in any sexual activity, including without limitation, offensive touching, sexual harassment, indecent exposure (including mooning), and sexual assault. This does not include the non-disruptive: (a) expression of gender or sexual orientation or preference, or (b) display of affection during non-instructional time.

Discussion about this topic included surprise that:

- *Expression of gender or sexual orientation or preference would be even noted here*
- *Display of affection during non-instructional time would be allowed*

- *Revision options suggested were:*
 - *Add the word “consensual” in (b); or*
 - *Remove b altogether*
- *Consensus to discuss with attorney and gather samples from other districts, and then possibly recommend changes to the policy*

5) Including positive and supportive language in policy, including restorative practices and social-emotional supports

There is language about Restorative measures in policy 7:180 that could be useful in including in policy 7:190. Dean group to review and suggest revisions.

6) Prohibited Student Conduct #14:

In the absence of a reasonable belief that an emergency exists, calling emergency responders (such as calling 911); signaling or setting of alarms or signals indicating the presence of an emergency; or indicating the presence of a bomb, or explosive device on school grounds, school bus, or at any school activity.

Recommendation: Attorney agrees that adding “firearm” to the policy is a good recommendation for the BOE (firearm, bomb, or explosive device).

- **Other Discussions**

- 1) Student Handbook Updates
 - a) References to “he/she” should be replaced with “they”
 - b) Add a clear definition of bullying
- 2) Ongoing Professional Development
 - a) How student consequences are determined
 - b) Culturally responsive decision-making
 - c) Restorative Practices
- 3) Cell phone possession is a complicated topic, and was brought up near the end of the meeting. Committee can consider reviewing this topic next year.

- **Next steps**

- 1) Make changes to Prohibited Conduct #10 based on recommendations from attorney and review of other district’s policies
- 2) Include Restorative Practices information in Discipline Policy

- 3) Include the word "firearm" in Prohibited Student Conduct #14
- 4) Student Handbook Updates
 - a) References to "he/she" should be replaced with "they"
 - b) Add a clear definition of bullying
- 5) Ongoing Professional Development
 - a) How student consequences are determined
 - b) Culturally responsive decision-making
 - c) Restorative Practices
- 6) Dr. Glickman will send the revision recommendations to the committee prior to bringing them to the Board of Education Policy Committee