

School District No. 1J, Multnomah County, Oregon
Board Committee Meeting of July 10th, 2019

A meeting of the board's Policy and Governance Committee meeting came to order at 8:38 am at the call of Chari Brim-Edwards in the Willamette Conference Room at the Blanchard Education Service Center, 501 N Dixon Street, Portland, Oregon, 97227.

There were present:

Committee Members

Julia Brim-Edwards-Committee Chair
Amy Kohnstamm
Rita Moore

Staff and other Attendees

Chandra Cooper- Director of Multi-tiered Student Success Support
Carol Hawkins-Senior Director of Employee and Labor Relations
Mary Kane-Senior Legal Counsel
Liz Large- Interim General Counsel
Kara Lazcano-Huff-Confidential Executive Assistant to the School Board
Juniper Painton-Student Success Business Operations Analyst
Rosanne Powell- Senior Board Manager
Dana Riemer-Student Success Program Manager
Courtney Westling-Director of Government Relations

Professional Conduct between Staff and Students Policy discussion

There was a discussion regarding community stake-holders receiving a copy of the draft policy. The current redlined draft of the policy was sent to the Portland Association of Teachers (PAT) for review and it was decided that comment would be held until after the committee meeting, where more edits potentially would be made. A meeting is scheduled next week with Carol Hawkins and PAT to discuss the draft. The policy draft will be sent to other targeted groups after the first reading at the board meeting scheduled for July 16th, 2109. Director Kohnstamm specified the importance of community partners who work closely with students in our schools, such as SUN, get a copy as soon as it goes into the public comment period.

The committee discussed further revisions to the policy. Director Kohnstamm commented on the ambiguity between staff and volunteers in the policy. Chair Brim-Edwards pointed out that is explained in the beginning of the policy that when referring to staff in the policy that it includes both staff and volunteer, but that it is also specified later in the document in reference to policy violation that there is a difference in staff verses volunteer. Director Kohnstamm requested that

it be specified which provisions were in place for volunteers since the same oversight as staff is not possible.

The committee discussed privacy between staff and student communication and how there is a difference between the expectation of privacy by students and what is required by staff. It was decided that the policy should include direction to staff should not promise students absolute confidentiality in their communications with students.

Liz Large asked if there should be a threshold of when staff should go to other staff regarding a personal problem. It was decided that the language should change to reflect that it is recommended that staff go to another staff member "if a student initiates a discussion regarding a significant family problem".

The committee continued through the draft suggesting word choice changes. Liz Large suggested that the language in this policy match other district policies, such as the mandatory reporting policy. She will look at the other policies and suggest changes to create consistency between them.

The committee agreed that with the revisions of language discussed the policy would be moved from committee to a first reading by the board.

Student Conduct and Discipline Policy

The school success team (Chandra Cooper, Juniper Painton, Dana Riemer) shared that since the last committee review of the policy a lot has been added in regards to trauma informed discipline, the bulleted responsibilities section has been removed and a responsibility statement added, and the equity statement was changed. Director Moore noted that the policy still says to provide consistency which is opposite of using trauma informed discipline. It was agreed to change to equitably.

The committee discussed the professional development aspect of the policy, debating whether or not to be specific about the type and frequency of the professional development that will be provided to staff in the policy. Director Moore stated that because of the difficulty of trauma informed discipline, it will be important for ongoing professional development to occur for all school staff, partners and families, not just teachers and administrators. Chandra Cooper agreed but mentioned that they would not have the resources and staff required to provide that level of professional development by the time the policy goes into effect, but that the three year goal is to get to there. It was agreed that Director Moore and Juniper Painton would meet separately to refine the language surrounding professional development and send the revisions to the committee for approval in time for it to be moved to the board for a first reading at the July 16th board meeting. Director Kohstamm requested that the policy be sent to Student Representative Latterell as soon as it enters the public comment period so that it can be looked at by the district's Student Council.

Healthy and Substance Free Learning Environment Policy

Discussed language surrounding student self-disclosure and penalization, as current language is unclear whether a student will be penalized if they self-disclose when attempting to help get help for another or when part of an investigation where the student is not the suspect. Chair Brim-Edwards requested that the team go back to the principal group and come up with new language for what is meant by voluntarily soliciting support and what is meant by discipline, and send a redrafted policy by Wednesday July 17th, so that the committee would have time to ask questions and offer feedback before the next committee meeting. Director Kohnstamm asked them to also consider how the policy relates to trauma informed policies.

Program for Disruptive Students Policy

The committee agreed that the policy would go to the board for a first reading for rescission.

District Funds for Purchase of Meal and Refreshments Policy

The committee did not have time to discuss this policy. It will be deferred to the next meeting of the committee.

No Public Comment.

Chair Brim-Edwards adjourned the committee at 10:40 am.

Submitted by:

Kara Lazcano-Huff
Confidential Executive Assistant to the School Board