

Behavior Intervention/Discipline Committee Meeting

Tuesday, February 17, 2015, 6 PM

Attendees:

Lisa Junger, counselor; Sue Bailey, parent, Zack Lehmacher, student; Aaron Valentino, student; Jennifer Jeon, student; Katie Knutte, student; Nicole Grames, student; Maggi Burkhardt, administrator; Sue Scott, teacher; Joanne Policht, administrator; Cathy Slee, administrator; Shirley Kleehammer, administrator; Bill Caron, administrator; Al Malley, Board member; Brian Bushnell, Board member; Susan Wulczyn, administrator

Minutes:

Review of Code of Conduct/Discipline Policy:

- Reviewed the purpose of committee: to review discipline procedures/Code of Conduct and behavior interventions within the schools; reminded the committee that recommendations are made for Board consideration
- OQ students shared some of their concerns: Dress Code (tanks, yoga pants, and fingertip length)
- Dr. Caron read the guidelines from the Code of Conduct/Red Book; shared that those decisions are building-based ones
- Mrs. Bailey shared that she felt the Code of Conduct was sufficient at setting general guidelines; OQ will address those questions at the building-level.
- OQ students also brought up concern with passing period time and detentions. This too will be discussed at the building level.
- Parent asked if there was a process for students to use should they feel they were wronged; Ms. Burkhardt shared that procedures were listed on page 34 in the Red Book.
- Clarified the difference between building-level issues and grievance-type issues.
- An OQ student then brought up the idea of extending passing periods. Dr. Caron shared that it would be something considered for the following year. Shared that it's important to let their voices be heard. Talk and work with teachers and counselors to work out plans.

Consider procedural changes related to Bullying Policy 7:180

- Provided history about the need to develop a Bullying Prevention and Response Plan
- Explained new procedures, including the Bullying Incident Report Form and the Bullying Investigation Report Form, presented in draft form to match the new bullying policy
- Reviewed the current Board Policy #7:180/Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment
 - a. Shared that the new language will be included in the Red Book in the fall

- b. Explained that the Bullying Incident Reporting Form would be available in every school office as well as being a link on the webpage; in addition, the form could be completed anonymously
 - c. Asked for other feedback about the forms
- Student made point that not all students would understand that their behavior is bullying in nature.
 - a. Ms. Burkhardt clarified how the form would help to clarify facts/information between the students involved
 - b. Ms. Policht clarified how the fact-finding process works
 - c. Ms. Wulczyn shared how students, staff, and parents will be trained each year to better understand what bullying is and how it will be addressed in our buildings
- Parent question: Are parents notified if their child is involved in a bullying investigation?
 - a. New investigation procedure indicates parents will be notified if their child is directly involved
 - b. Administrators agreed that parents are contacted depending on the significance of the behavior and their involvement in the issue
- Pointed out the Dear Colleague letter on bullying and students with disabilities, either on IEPs or with 504 Plans; explained how we have to ensure that all students' rights are protected.
- APs shared restorative measures that can take place, including peer mediation, problem solving, safety plan, discussion with a social worker or counselor, etc.
- Parent asked if this additional paperwork would add a burden on the administrative team; shared that we like the new form because it's so comprehensive in nature. It's a more thorough, consistent document for district-wide use.
- Ms. Wulczyn shared annual expectations and guidelines for transparency; moving forward, information about bullying incidents will be tracked, monitored and reviewed; necessary changes to our procedures and guidelines will be instituted.
- Shared that students are the ears and eyes to the district; please know that we're here to support you.

Follow up questions:

- OQ students asked about a suggestion-type box that could be kept in each building so students' voices could be heard. Students brought up the importance of sharing this information with students, maybe in conjunction with a Second Step lesson
- Students continued to share ideas for discussion, particularly at the middle school level
- Dodgeball was then brought up; shared the concerns for risk of concussion and the possibility of bullying behavior that can come into play with playing the game
- OQ students shared that they aren't having as many Second Step lessons as they have had in the past, particularly at the 7th grade level; they also shared the Rachel's Challenge program should be highlighted more
- Meeting adjourned at 7:20 P.M.
- Minutes submitted by Cathy Slee