

Behavior Intervention/Discipline Committee Meeting minutes

May 4, 2016, 5 PM

Attendees:

Michelle Watson, school psychologist; Carli Padgett, teacher; Cathy Slee, administrator; Joanne Policht, administrator; Nancy Mutterer, parent; Maggi Burkhardt, administrator; Shirley Kleehammer, administrator; Mary Kennedy, parent; Johnny Billingsley, administrator; Damon Ascolani, board member; Sarah Troutman, social worker; Carolyn Beil, social worker; Brian Bushnell, board member; Sue Scott, teacher; Courtney Orzel, superintendent; Susan Wulczyn, administrator

Minutes:

All had previously read the recent Dear Colleague letter to ensure learning environments are free from discrimination and harassment based on race, religion, and national origin and there were no specific questions.

- Administrators shared their experience with Dr. Carolyn Shields, an expert in the practice of identifying and managing discrimination and harassment in the school setting. In a recent training with the administrative team, she showed the YouTube video, "What kind of Asian are you?" to raise awareness of how discriminatory behavior permeates our culture.
- Administrators then reviewed that results of a recent student survey at Old Quarry were cause for concern, and that they are aggressively handling any situations of reported negativity.
- Questions of the group focused on understanding the students' responses to the survey and how situations would be managed by administrators.
- Follow up training for staff/students will be provided in the coming school year

Next, the group reviewed the New Illinois School Suspension and Expulsion requirements.

- The impetus for this change derived from over-utilization of exclusion as a disciplinary strategy in some districts.
- Little will change in our district; it will be important to document the proactive strategies we use as alternatives to out-of-school discipline.
- Rationale for explaining the length of exclusionary measures, and the practice of holding a reintegration meeting will be enacted.
- District 113A does not adhere to a zero tolerance policy; discipline always is decided on a case-by-case basis.
- Board and administrator training has already occurred; staff will be trained at the opening Institute day for immediate implementation.

No additional questions regarding Code of Conduct or Discipline policies were raised.

Respectfully submitted by Susan Wulczyn