

**REVISED****REPORT OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE**

The Policy Committee met on Monday, May 15, 2017 at 4:30 pm at the Cincinnati Public Schools Education Center in the Board Office Conference Room.

**Student Voice/Representative in Board Practice**

*Elisa Hoffman, Board Member*

Mrs. Hoffman updated the Committee on behalf of Ms. Bledsoe, due to her impending maternity absence. Mrs. Hoffman reported that Ms. Bledsoe prepared a memo and a PowerPoint presentation that will be used to lead the conversation when going into the schools to talk with students. She also reported that Pat Neal-Miller, Director of Family and Community Engagement, reached out to Aiken, Shroder, Hughes, and Walnut Hills high schools to schedule the conversations, but due to graduations, testing, and end-of-year expectations, she was unable to secure a date.

The Committee agreed to suspend the conversations until the beginning of the next school year. This will also give new Superintendent Laura Mitchell time to provide input on how she would like the Student Advisory Committee to be organized.

**ACTION:** Ms. Bledsoe and Mrs. Hoffman will work with Mrs. Neal-Miller in the summer to draft a plan and schedule meetings for next school year. The Committee will review the plan at the August 14, 2017 Policy Committee.

**Policy 5201 – Truancy**

*Dan Hoying, General Counsel*

Mr. Hoying continued his update from the April 17, 2017 Policy Committee meeting on Policy 5201 – Truancy, due to House Bill (HB) 410 that will require changes to the document. The bill became effective in April 2017, and is intended to prohibit suspensions and expulsions for truancy, thus minimizing juvenile court involvement. The CPS District does not currently expel students for truancy.

The policy reflects a new definition for “habitual” truancy and proposes required steps to be taken to address truancy. The policy also reflects the definition of “habitual truants” as students that miss more than 30 consecutive hours, 42 or more hours in a month, or 72 or more hours in a school year. He also reported that changes require establishing an “*Absence Intervention Team*” facilitated by school social workers who serve as attendance officers and assist students and their families in reducing absences. If unsuccessful the social workers will refer them to court.

Since the April Policy Committee meeting, Mr. Hoying reviewed a draft of the policy with school social workers Meg Burrows, Joy Kain, Mary Jo Miller-Montenegro, and Naomie Madaris and additional changes were made. These changes are included in the revised draft.

Mr. Hoying summarized that the policy reflects changes per the state statute and that the document has been forwarded to juvenile court for their review.

Mrs. Hoffman inquired as to how *Absence Intervention Teams* at schools experiencing high truancy rates will manage capacity, and continue to do their day-to-day operations.

Mrs. Hoffman expressed the need to make sure that schools that are affected more than others have the people resources that they need to service the students. This may have budget implications.

There are currently 17 social workers in the District and they serve 3-5 schools each.

**ACTION:** The Administration will advise the Committee on how the policy will impact the need to expand the time that school social workers will need to be at the schools when truancy rates require additional resources to service students. Will there be a need for more school social workers? What is the truancy data? Based on the numbers, what will it mean for the workload at the schools?

**ACTION:** The Committee will recommend approval of the policy at the May 22, 2017 Regular Board meeting and revisit the policy at the November 2017 Policy Committee meeting.

### **Guidelines for PFLAG**

*Daniel Hoying, General Counsel*

*Elisa Hoffman, Board Member*

In follow-up to last month's discussion about the meeting with PFLAG, attended by Mr. Hoying and Ms. Hoffman, Mr. Hoying updated the Committee on his meeting regarding the District's requirement to report to parents about the sexual orientation and gender identity of students.

He informed the Policy Committee that he reviewed Massachusetts Department of Education best practices and guidance on issues related to LGBT students. He advised that Massachusetts had good resources on bullying and communications with families.

He also discussed with the Committee a law review article from the Loyola Los Angeles Law Review, "[Outed At School: Student Privacy Rights and Preventing Unwanted Disclosure of Sexual Orientation.](#)" The article talked about school officials taking matters into their own hands, disclosing information about a student's sexual orientation to parents or family members without the student's permission, and without considering the well-being and potential consequences at home.

He reported that in general the law does not give students many rights on disclosure and that he could not locate a case where a student was "outed" to their parents and the district was held liable.

Mr. Hoying informed the group that a Board policy is not needed, but a memorandum from the Office of General Counsel should be provided to the schools.

**ACTION:** Mr. Hoying will provide the Committee and the Leadership Team with a draft of an Attorney Client Privilege guideline document. He will also meet with the PFLAG group, GLSEN and students for their feedback. The guidelines will be shared with principals and teachers.

## **Magnet Enrollment Communication Plan**

*Sarah Trimble-Oliver, Chief Information Officer*

Committee Chair Jones updated the group on the behalf of Mrs. Neal-Miller about the Magnet Lottery Survey. Approximately 600 emails and 600 texts were sent, with 88 responses received. The survey was closed on May 12, 2017.

**ACTION:** Mrs. Neal-Miller will share the results of the survey at the June 12, 2017 Policy Committee.

**ACTION:** The Policy Committee advised Mrs. Neal-Miller to resend the survey due to the low responses and to find ways of getting a larger response.

Ms. Trimble-Oliver updated the Committee on the applications for kindergarten magnet enrollment.

She informed the Committee about the number of applications received for kindergarten enrollment into the magnet schools from the past three school years: 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18.

Her report included the number of siblings accepted, total number of lottery applications received (regular or first choice), total number of lottery applications received (including all choices), total number of applications accepted and the percentage of applicants accepted (all choices, and accepted into one of their five choices).

Please find attached a copy of the report.

**ACTION:** In the post-lottery data, in addition to the percentage of students who got seats, Mrs. Trimble-Oliver will include the percentage who accepted the seat/filled out their enrollment paperwork. In the data presented after the school year starts, Mrs. Trimble-Oliver will update the latter number to reflect the percentage that actually came to school. In both cases, she will show what rank the school was (e.g., student's first choice, second choice, etc.).

**ACTION:** Mrs. Trimble-Oliver will do this same analysis for magnet preschool.

## **OSBA Essential Policies Update**

*Daniel Hoying, General Counsel*

Mr. Hoying reported that he is up to date in reviewing with the Policy Committee OSBA's Essential Policies that are pertinent to the District. He has reviewed the following policies with the Committee: Family and Medical Leave Act; Ohio Principal and Teacher Evaluations; School Counselor Evaluations; Diabetes, Opium Abuse Policies; Career Advising, and Third Grade Reading Guarantee.

He advised that he will review policy on College Credit Plus to ensure that it is aligned to home schooled students and students enrolled in a school.

| It is determined that the District is current in [its](#) review of Essential Policies.

## **Other Business**

### Rawson House

*Daniel Hoying, General Counsel*

*Bill Moehring, Chief Operations Officer*

Mr. Hoying inquired about the possibility of using the Rawson House to conduct special events and fund raisers and doing a permanent alcohol waiver for adult only events. If students are involved, the waiver would not apply.

Committee Chair Jones advised that the Board is not clear on how the building will be used and it would be premature for the Committee to move forward on the request. A full Board discussion would need to take place.

Mr. Moehring advised the availability of the space should Board consider conducting meetings, if desired. The Committee agreed to suggest to full Board for consideration and to host next Policy Committee meeting at the Rawson House.

### Board Assignments

#### *Spectator Behavior:*

Ms. Jones inquired about an assignment that was made at the May 8, 2017 Regular Board meeting for both Policy and Student Achievement Committees to review policy and practice that address spectator behavior for all events in the District. This assignment was made after hearing the personal story of a Clark student's and parent's experiences with bullying.

She expressed that the policy is more than just for spectators at athletic events—it should cover other on-campus and off-campus events. She also advised that a policy on how the District manages sportsmanship should be considered.

Education and training for coaches needs to be reviewed.

Parent Craig Rozen recommended having a character policy.

**ACTION:** Mr. Hoying will review current Board policies, the Code of Conduct, and the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) guidelines on spectators at sporting events. He will present the Committee with a recommendation. Ms. Jones advised that this is an ongoing issue that needs to be looked at carefully.

#### *Addressing Safety Concerns:*

Committee member Hoffman posed questions regarding policy and procedures for what to do if altercations occur in areas outside of supervision and what occurs around supervision in communal, passing, or transition periods, i.e., altercations and illness.

**ACTION:** Mr. Hoying will provide more information at the June 12, 2017 Policy Committee meeting to discuss what guidelines may be in place.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM.

**Policy Committee**

Carolyn Jone, Chair  
Elisa Hoffman  
A. Chris Nelms

**Staff Liaisons**

Dan Hoying, General Counsel  
Yenetta Harper, Director, Teacher and Principal Development  
Paul McDole, Director, Human Resources  
Sarah Trimble-Oliver, Chief Information Officer

**Magnet Kindergarten Applications In the Past 3 Years**

	Applications for 2015-16 SY (before full lottery)	Applications for 2016-17 SY (first year of full lottery)	Applications for 2017-18 SY (second year of full lottery)
Sibling Applications Accepted	173	185	220
Total Applications Received (Regular or 1st choice lottery)	976	995	1018
Total Lottery Applications (including all choices)		2669	2683
Total Accepted Applications	734	791	757
Percent of Applicants Accepted (all choices)	75%	79%	74%

