

REPORT OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

The Policy Committee met on Monday, October 9, 2017 at 11:00 AM at the Mayerson Academy, 2650 Highland Ave, Cincinnati, OH, 45219, Room 110.

Student Voice

Committee member Hoffman, Board Fellow Erin Bledsoe, and Mrs. Neal-Miller met with Student Leaders of the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council (SSAC) last spring to begin a conversation about incorporating student voice in Board policies.

After the SSAC's enthusiastic response, the Policy Committee and Mrs. Neal-Miller agreed that the next step was to bring together students from all CPS high schools to gauge their interest in this topic and begin to solicit their ideas for how to incorporate student voice in Board decision making. On September 15, Mrs. Hoffman and members of the Family and Community Engagement Team (FACE) held conversations with approximately forty (40) Student Leaders, representing all CPS High Schools, around how this initiative could be structured.

The approximately 40 students attended the October 9, 2017 committee meeting which was dedicated to full group discussion and presentations by the students of their ideas and recommendations from the Sept. 15 meeting. They focused on summarizing their group's answers to four main questions:

- How should this group be put together; in other words, how are the students chosen to participate?
- How should they interact with the Board?
- How often should they meet?
- What kind of structure or support would the group need to be successful?

Following are several themes that came out of the conversation, including:

- Each school has its own culture and structures; therefore, a "one size fits all" approach will not work as well as allowing each school to determine the best ways to do things like advertise the program or choose its participants
- Board members should come to high schools and not always have students come to the Ed Center
- Students will need support from the Board, their principals, and their teachers in order to commit time, especially during the school day, to this program

Many details still need to be worked out but the group agreed that:

- Each school could have its own Board student voice committee; that committee could nominate people to participate in the inter-school large group meetings at the Ed Center
- The group could meet twice a month; one time a month Board members go to a high school and talk with that school's committee, and one time a month the full inter-school group meets at the Ed Center
- The Board will create a calendar of meetings well in advance, giving consideration to school needs, and send it to principals, students, and teachers. The Board will also communicate regularly with staff/admin and students so that everyone is aware of the commitment students are making.

It was agreed that another meeting is needed to continue working out the details.

It was also agreed that a policy about a student voice program will be necessary in order to institutionalize it.

ACTION STEP: Ms. Hoffman and Ms. Neal-Miller will schedule a convenient time, once again, to meet with Student Leaders to finalize recommendations and begin working out details.

ACTION STEP: The policy committee will begin drafting a high level policy about incorporating student voice in Board decision making.

ACTION STEP: Board staff will compile the information from the meeting for review and continued discussion at next scheduled meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 1:02 PM.

Policy Committee

Carolyn Jones, Chair
Elisa Hoffman

Staff Liaisons

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