REVISED

REPORT OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

The Policy Committee met on Monday, April 17, 2017 at 4:30 pm at the Cincinnati Public Schools Education Center in the Board Office Conference Room.

**Policy 3220 – Teacher Evaluation**  
_Yenetta Harper, Director of Teacher & Principal Development & Evaluation_

Ms. Harper reported that she had no changes to the policy. Any changes would occur after receiving any revisions from the Ohio Department of Education in June or August of 2017.

She informed the Committee that a recommendation has been submitted to the legislation that would change the student growth measures of the evaluation. The recommendation would be to exclude testing and that this would not affect performance standards.

Ms. Harper informed the group that she has been working with Information Technology on researching personalized blended learning professional development for teachers based on their areas for growth in their evaluation. Requests for Proposal are being solicited to select a vendor.

Committee member Hoffman expressed her appreciation for this work, as the Board, especially Board Member Bolton, has been vocal about using teaching evaluations as an opportunity for personalized learning.

**ACTION:** Curriculum will recommend a vendor to the Board for their approval at a future Board meeting.

Mrs. Hoffman inquired about the status of receiving data to show if there are correlations between performance and growth; that is, if teachers who are rated high in performance are also seeing significant growth with their students and vice-versa.

Mrs. Harper reported that teachers have been “held harmless” for the last two years and the scores have not been included in their evaluations but teachers have been using student learning objectives (SLOs). Ms. Hoffman said that this data would not be used for individual teacher evaluation but in aggregate to make sure that our ratings are valid.

**ACTION:** Ms. Harper will work with the Director of Performance and Accountability about ways of extracting data around performance and growth correlations. She will come with takeaways about what the data is telling us about the correlations between performance and growth. Ms. Harper will update the Committee at the July 10, 2017 Policy Committee meeting.

Mrs. Hoffman asked if there would be a request again this year to change the frequency with which Accomplished teachers are evaluated and, if so, if we should get that question in front of the full Board early. Ms. Harper suggested holding off on that conversation given the big changes in front of the legislature and approaching the Board with all the information at once.
The Committee will continue discussion of the Teacher Evaluation Policy at the July 10, 2017 Policy Committee meeting.

**Student Voice/Representative in Board Practice**  
*Elisa Hoffman, Board Member*

Mrs. Hoffman reported that she and Erin Bledsoe, the Board’s Fellow, presented to Superintendent Ronan’s Student Advisory Council. Mrs. Hoffman advised that the students were very receptive and appreciative of being asked for their input.

Committee Member Hoffman also informed the Committee that she, Committee Chair Jones, and Board Member Bolton attended Aiken High School’s 11th grade government class. The class was assigned a public policy project and the groups that presented to Board members chose education policies, specifically bullying and graduation requirements. Ms. Jones reported that the students emailed the full Board and requested a follow-up to their proposals. Additionally, their teacher emailed their names so they could be part of the student voice project.

**ACTION:** The Committee recommended that Board President Ericka Copeland-Dansby respond to students who sent emails to the Board after the Administration determines who will work on their issues. Issues included: school scheduling for class of 2018, bullying, graduation requirements, and students needing proper guidance (Big and Little program).

Pat Neal-Miller reported that she has reached out to school principals at Aiken, Schroder, and Walnut Hills high schools to get dates to begin conversations about student voice on the Board.

**ACTION:** Mrs. Neal-Miller will confirm a date before the end of the school year. The Committee will discuss student voice at either the May or June Policy Committee meeting, depending on when meetings with the students can be scheduled.

**Policy 5201 – Truancy**  
*Dan Hoying, General Counsel*

Mr. Hoying continued his update from the March 6, 2017 Policy Committee meeting on Policy 5201 – Truancy, due to House Bill (HB) 410 that will require changes to the document. The bill will be effective in April 2017.

The Bill will redefine “habitual truancy,” remove the term “chronic truancy” from the Ohio Revised Code, and revise when schools can intervene from a day’s scheme to a calendar year.

Mr. Hoying reviewed and provided the Committee with a revised draft of the policy that includes updated language as required by HB 410 – Habitual and Chronic Truancy. He reported that the bill will minimize students being involved with the criminal justice system.

Please find attached information about HB 410, provided by the Ohio Department of Education.

Mr. Hoying recommended that the Board schedule passage of the revised policy later in the year in order to allow him time to review the updated policy with the local juvenile court and with the “Kids In
School Rule” group. He also reported that social workers are working on procedures to implement the changes and he would like to have those procedures in place before passage of the policy.

The updated policy needs to be in place at the beginning of school year 2017-2018.

Mrs. Hoffman inquired about what the policy is when students miss school due to being on vacation with their parents. How are those absences counted? How or can the child avoid being counted as truant due to being on vacation with their parent? How can calls to parents from Truant officers be avoided?

ACTION: Mr. Hoying advised that he will look into if law permits having unexcused absences excusing the truancy policy.

ACTION: The Policy Committee will continue discussion Policy 5201 – Truancy at the May 8, 2017 meeting.

**Magnet Enrollment**

*Sarah Trimble Oliver, Chief Information Officer*

Committee Chair Jones reiterated the need to have an update on the status of the magnet lottery and the parent survey to get feedback on the magnet school lottery application process.

Mrs. Neal-Miller reported at the March 6, 2017 Policy Committee meeting that the survey will be administered to parents that participated in the lottery for school year 2015-2016 to get feedback on the Magnet school application and enrollment process. The survey will be administered on April 25, 2017 and will run for two weeks. She provided the Committee with a draft of the survey questions.

The Committee advised Mrs. Neal-Miller to revise the question about students receiving their first or second choice schools into two questions in-order to solicit more detailed responses.

The group also advised her to include a fill-in-the-blank question to gather data on what specific school students choose if they do not get their first choice.

Mrs. Neal-Miller will add a question around how the District can improve their communication process with parents.

Ms. Jones dialogued about the need for the Board to have a conversation on what the Board is looking for in terms of equity in relation to magnet enrollment. How will the Board know that the magnet enrollment lottery was 100 percent successful?

Mrs. Hoffman inquired about how Policy 5113.01 – Schools of Choice and Magnet Intra-District Enrollment Program, has been communicated to parents

ACTION: Mrs. Neal Miller will work with Public Affairs to come up with a communication plan to inform parents about the process.

ACTION: The Policy Committee will continue the Magnet Enrollment discussion at the May 8, 2017 meeting.
ACTION: Ms. Trimble-Oliver will provide enrollment data (application acceptance demands) after the third-round of the lottery is completed in the spring or summer of 2017.

ACTION: Ms. Trimble-Oliver informed the Committee that once all of the enrollment packets have been processed she will present enrollment data (diversity, demographics) at the October 9, 2017 Policy Committee meeting.

**OSBA Essential Policies**

*Dan Hoying, General Counsel*

Mr. Hoying reported that a legal intern will begin working with the District on May 15, 2017. He will have that person review the District’s policies to determine if any require updating and also review OSBA’s Essential Policies for any needing review by the District.

**Other Business**

*Elisa Hoffman, Board Member*

Mrs. Hoffman reported that she and Mr. Hoying were invited to attend a PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) meeting to discuss the District's equity policy as well as answer questions about how CPS works with transgender students and their families. Some PFLAG members discussed concerns around whether school district staffs are obligated to tell parents if they know a student is gay.

Mr. Hoying researched students' rights and districts' legal obligations, as well as guidance other districts provide, and presented that information to the committee.

ACTION: Mr. Hoying will work with the Policy Committee to draft guidance. He will share those guidelines with PFLAG members for their input and feedback. The Committee will discuss a draft of the guidelines at the May 8, 2017 Policy Committee meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:49 PM.

**Policy Committee**
Carolyn Jones, Chair
Elisa Hoffman
A. Chris Nelms, absent

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