



Oswego Community Unit School District 308

SERVING ALL OR PARTS OF THE COMMUNITIES OF
AURORA, JOLIET, MONTGOMERY, OSWEGO, PLAINFIELD, AND YORKVILLE

Policy Advisory/Parent-Teacher Committee

Virtual Meeting

Monday, March 22, 2021

5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

1. Meeting called to order at 5:32 p.m. and a roll call was taken at this time.

Members in Attendance: Andria Baumgartner, Kirsten Coulman (joined late), Margaret Darnell, Anne Elwood, Craig Gunty, Christopher Heckert, Robyn Vickers

Board Member and Co-Chairs: Matt Bauman and Alison Swanson

Administrators: Valerie Patterson, Executive Director of Student Services

Recording Secretary: Ursula Studer

Guests in Attendance: Dr. Denise Hildebrand, Executive Director of Special Education; Maureen Lemon, Board of Education Attorney; Dawn Simosky, Director of Transportation

Members Absent: Aurora Basha, Tracy Collander, Ken Miller

2. Motion was made to approve the February 1, 2021 meeting minutes by Alison Swanson, seconded by Matt Bauman; all were in favor.

3. **2021-2022 Rights/Responsibilities Updates/Feedback**

Mrs. Patterson stated that this is an annual meeting and that every student receives this document every year. There are four areas of review:

- Rights and Responsibilities
- Reciprocal Reporting
- Bus Discipline
- Behavioral Interventions with Special Education

Introduction

A new introduction was proposed by LaTonya Simelton with input from Faith Dahlquist and Dr. Podjasek. This wording was shared with our Superintendent Leadership Team today and will be shared with all administrators on 4/13. It was designed with the DEI work and



collaborative learning in mind. Mrs. Swanson commented that when looking at learning environments to encourage students to take intellectual risks, that perhaps standard based grading be reviewed and potentially pushed to the higher grades where they are more likely to stop taking risks. Mrs. Patterson will suggest that the Teaching & Learning Committee will review this.

Rights and Responsibilities

Legal update:

Social Media – School Authorities may *conduct an investigation* or require a student to cooperate in an investigation if there is specific information about activity on the student’s social networking account that violates the District’s disciplinary rule or policy.

Anne Elwood would like to see language that protects the teachers when parents lash out on Social Media. Since this is a handbook for student’s, it would be appropriate for staff to contact administration, student services or the HR department with such concerns so they can be investigated. There is a reporting process for that in place.

Mr. Patterson stated once all the changes to this document have been made, it can be sent out to the committee and our Unions for more suggestions and feedback before going to the Board of Education for approval.

Student Records

Legal update with little/no content change

Consent for sharing of personal information/photographs/videos will need to be filled out every year at registration or with a new enrollment for each student.

Military Recruiting – District 308 will, upon military recruiters’ request, provide access to the students’ names, addresses and phone numbers. Parents/guardians have the right to request this information not be disclosed without prior written consent by making a written request to Valerie Patterson.

Authorization for Electronic Network Access

SOPPA (Student Online Personal Protection Act) - this will go into effect on July 1, 2021 and it requires that all vendor contracts in the district where there may be an exchange of student information, is protected. This is information for the parents and all vendors are on notice as well. If contractors are not willing to sign this agreement or if their services are free and there is no way to protect student information, we will no longer be able to use them. The corresponding new policy, created for Use of Educational Technologies is 7:345. There will be a new process for teachers and what they can and cannot use in the classroom.

Health Services

Availability of Interpretation Services – committee members asked for that to be changed to Interpreter instead. Dr. Hildebrand shared that the Special Education department already has the documentation needed to fulfill this requirement. Dr. Hildebrand is listed as the person to contact if there are any questions.



Attendance

Additional language to specify in-person or remote attendance.

Student Discipline (Conduct, Intervention and Consequences)

Gross Misconduct/Disobedience – all misconduct or disobedience that may be considered criminal behavior will be referred to the proper legal authorities. Mrs. Swanson suggested more detail with A. Student Behavior – 1. Student Dress – b. Be suggestive or disruptive. Mrs. Lemon stated that most district use the word disruptive and that it is difficult to define what that means. The building and district work together through each situation.

Using or possessing an electronic device – Mrs. Swanson wanted to make sure that teachers were in no way responsible for devices removed from students due to miss use. Failure to abide by the expectations may include the following consequences: verbal/written warning, parent guardian contact and/or meeting, securing a student's cell phone/device in the office until transferred to a parent/guardian.

Title IX Sexual Harassment

Title IX is a new Section – Mrs. Patterson stated that all administrators will be trained on the new procedures in the spring. The rest of the staff will receive their training in the fall. Maureen Lemon added that this new section very specifically defines what Sexual Harassment is. Every employee in the district is deemed responsible if they have knowledge of activity that meets the definition of sexual harassment under this federal law. If an individual fails to share what they know with Mrs. Patterson, the Title IX Coordinator, so an investigation can take place, the district can be held liable.

At this time, two members left the virtual meeting and there was no longer a quorum present. The discussion stopped for a few minutes until Matt Bauman returned to fulfill the quorum requirement.

4. Guidelines for Reciprocal Reporting

If any event, on or off campus, poses a threat to safety of staff, students, or school, law enforcement is permitted to transmit information to the principal, and the principal can share information with the district, in order to come up with the appropriate communication.

Reporting of Student Criminal Activity – Mrs. Patterson went through some examples of activities that we would report to the appropriate municipality/village. Police officials will report to school officials the same type of information, within the same timeframes.

Confidentiality and Records – any law enforcement record subject to disclosure under these guidelines, shall not be disclosed or made available in any form to any person or agency other than set forth in these guidelines or authorized by law. Information that comes from law enforcement is separate and not part of the student's school record.



5. Bus Safety and Student Discipline

Dawn Simosky, Director of Transportation

The District 308 Transportation Department ensures students' safety by rigorously maintaining and inspecting its vehicles, and by providing drivers with extensive training.

The bus and bus stops are extensions of school and all rules of conduct are applicable.

Students who violate the bus expectations or behave in a manner that disrupts the ride, will be reported to the school administration and consequences may be issued. If the driver is not aware of an incident, the students have the option of reporting it at school the next day or using the form on their school website to make an anonymous report. The incident will then be investigated, using the video tape from the bus. The school would then handle any discipline and/or parent contact.

6. Behavioral Interventions for Students with Disabilities

Dr. Denise Hildebrand, Executive Director of Special Education

A pamphlet is given to parents of Special Education Students in order to inform them of the various interventions used in our district. Dr. Hildebrand gave some examples that are included in these interventions. Our District follows the State regulations with the interventions that are utilized. If parents have any questions regarding the interventions, they can contact Dr. Hildebrand directly.

7. Policy Update:

2:40 Board Member Qualifications – Consent for Student Ambassador

This policy would allow for a student from each High School to attend the Board of Education meetings and serve in an advisory capacity. The student will not have any voting privileges and may not attend closed session.

Motion was made by Alison Swanson, seconded by Matt Bauman, to accept changes as noted; all in favor.

8:30 Community Relations (from 02.01.21 meeting)

The requested updates to the policy were provided as discussed in the last meeting.

Motion was made by Alison Swanson, seconded by Matt Bauman, to accept changes as noted; all in favor.

8. Public Comment (3 minutes/each) – *there was no public comment*

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m; all were in favor.