

SCHOOL DISTRICT U-46  
ELGIN, ILLINOIS

Board School/Community Relations Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
February 25, 2019

A policy committee of the Board of Education met at 4:15 p.m. in Room 140 of the Educational Services Center, 355 East Chicago Street, Elgin, Illinois. Board Members in attendance were John Devereux, Sue Kerr, Veronica Noland and Melissa Owens. Also in attendance were Tony Sanders-Chief Executive Officer, Miguel Rodriguez-Chief Legal Officer, Mary Fergus-Director of School and Community Relations, Luis Rodriguez-Assistant Attorney, Josh Carpenter-Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, and Karla Jimenez-Coordinator of Family and Community Engagement.

1. Open Meeting and Introduction

Ms. Owens opened the meeting and everyone present stated their name and title.

2. Discussion of Board Policy Section 8 – School/Community Relations

Mr. Luis Rodriguez proceeded to go through the proposed changes as follows:

8.010 - Family and Community Engagement. Adds CEO as necessary and improves language regarding Family Engagement Plans at individual schools. The Committee accepted these changes.

8.011 - Public Information Program. Adds CEO as necessary and makes minor grammatical changes to improve the manner in which the policy reads. The Committee accepted these changes.

8.012 - School/Community Relations Goals. Improves the language of the policy broadening the scope of communication methods between the District and the community. Ms. Kerr asked for clarification regarding whether subparagraph (a) stated we are educating people who work for the District about District policies so that those employees could educate the community. Ms. Fergus stated that is correct. The Committee requested adding additional language to the end of the sentence of subparagraph (a) for explanatory purposes.

8.013 - Public's Right to Know. Adds CEO as necessary and replaces "5" with "five." The Committee accepted these changes.

8.015 - News Media Relations. Adds CEO as necessary and improves policy language to properly reflect the current name of the responsible District department. The Committee accepted these changes.

8.018 - Broadcast/Cablecast Coverage. Grammatically improves the policy language with minor proposed changes. The Committee accepted these changes.

8.019 - Staff/Student Interviews and Photographs/Images/Work. Adds CEO as necessary and makes minor grammatical improvements to the policy. The Committee accepted these changes.

8.026 - Advertising in the Schools. Adds CEO as necessary. Also adds language explicitly ensuring privacy rights are not violated in permissible advertisements. In response to Ms. Owens regarding “non-permanent advertisements”, Mr. Luis Rodriguez stated the policy indicates the Superintendent’s/Chief Executive Officer’s procedures govern non-permanent advertisements. The procedures are found in two places – policy 8.026 and a PTO/PTA guideline document which is maintained by the School and Community Relations Department. The Legal Department is in the process of updating that document. When individuals try to utilize facilities or try to add an advertisement, there is a process that goes through the Plant Operations Department. The Committee accepted these changes.

8.050 - Visitors to the Schools. Adds CEO as necessary and grammatically improves policy language. The Committee accepted these changes.

8.080 - Public Donations and Gifts to the Schools. Adds CEO as necessary. Also adds language that compliments the Board’s Equity Policy and Equal Educational Opportunities Policy when accepting public donations and gifts. In response to Ms. Owens, Mr. Luis Rodriguez stated language would be added clarifying the difference between public donations and advertising in the schools. Ms. Noland expressed concern with the language as she felt the language was stating two different things. Mr. Luis Rodriguez stated both scenarios are listed because both could happen and would come before the Board for approval. Mr. Luis Rodriguez stated he would add language to the last full paragraph indicating donations would be handled on a case-by-case basis. The Committee accepted these changes.

8.090 - Parent Organizations, Booster Clubs and Foundations. Adds CEO as necessary. The Committee accepted these changes.

8.092 - Free Admission for Senior Citizens. Removes reference to the outdated practice of issuing “Senior Citizen Platinum Cards” and improves policy language. In response to Mr. Sanders, Mr. Luis Rodriguez stated he would add language to the last sentence of the first paragraph indicating free admission for senior citizens to all school activities held at any U-46 facilities, including athletic events. The Committee accepted these changes.

8.104 - Relations with Education Research Agencies. Adds CEO as necessary. The Committee accepted these changes.

8.512 – Mr. Luis Rodriguez responded to a question regarding the policy language being edited in October of 2016. Mr. Luis Rodriguez clarified there was a discussion on October 3, 2016, regarding the creation of guidelines and those guidelines are what was adopted that day. There are no proposed changes to the policy. Mr. Luis Rodriguez further stated that this is an existing guideline to govern public speaking minutes at meetings. Mr. Miguel Rodriguez stated language could be added indicating that the Board of Education has drafted guidelines to implement the policy. In response to concerns over the language, Mr. Luis Rodriguez stated the policy would

be reworded indicating the Board of Education reserves the privilege of limiting public comment, cross-referencing Press Policy 2.230.

3. Public Participation  
There was no public participation.
4. Adjournment  
The meeting adjourned at 4:47 PM

Approved this 25th day of March, 2019

/s/ Donna Smith //  
President

/s/ Miguel Rodriguez //  
Secretary