

SCHOOL DISTRICT U-46
ELGIN, ILLINOIS

Board Curriculum Committee
Policy Review
Meeting Minutes
June 4, 2018

A policy committee of the Board of Education met at the Educational Services Center, 355 East Chicago Street, Elgin, Illinois. Board Members in attendance were Sue Kerr, Jeanette Ward, Phil Costello and Melissa Owens. Also in attendance were Miguel Rodriguez, Chief Legal Officer, Suzanne Johnson, Deputy Superintendent of Instruction, Terri Lozier, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Schools Instruction & Equity, Josh Carpenter, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, Luis Rodriguez, Assistant Attorney to the Chief Legal Office, and Peggy Ondera, Director of Early Learners.

Mr. Luis Rodriguez indicated this meeting was called to discuss suggested amendments to Board Policy Section 6. As a result of a previous review of policies, Mr. Luis Rodriguez is suggesting the following modifications to Section 6 only based on legal requirements and recommendations of the Illinois Association of School Boards and Administration.

6.010 – Implementation of the Transfer Provisions of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLBA). It is recommended this policy be stricken as the relevant provisions are no longer applicable.

6.020 – School Year Calendar and Day. The policy change reflects statutory language that requires teachers and students to devote a portion of the school day on Commemorative Holidays to honor the commemorated person or occasion. Board Member Ward asked what statute required this policy, when it passed and why it was necessary. Mr. Luis Rodriguez responded the statute is 705 ILCS 5/24-2 as amended by Public 98-156. He was not sure of the exact enacting date. He will follow-up and provide. Board Member Ward asked if it has to be put into the policy. Mr. Luis Rodriguez stated it did not. Mr. Luis Rodriguez shared the dates listed in the statute. Board Member Kerr asked if something would need to be done for all of these holidays. Mr. Luis Rodriguez responded the proposal is for teachers and students to devote a portion of their school day on these days to study and honor the person or occasion. Dr. Johnson stated the District has partnered with libraries and is looking for more opportunities to address these holidays in differentiated ways. Board Member Ward asked how many days would be affected and requested a list. Mr. Luis Rodriguez stated he could provide the list. Board Member Owens asked if this is a mandate. Mr. Luis Rodriguez stated it is and would revisit the statutory language to make sure. Board Member Owens stated she had no problem with the practice but was concerned about making it a mandatory part of the policy. Mr. Miguel Rodriguez stated it was discretionary and the Board could make the determination as to whether to make a part of the policy. Board Member Ward stated it would be an unfunded mandate. Board Member Owens re-expressed concern over taking away from day-to-day studies to address commemorative holidays.

6.030 – Organization of Instruction. The proposed change adds language that mirrors the statutory requirement regarding Kindergarten as it currently exists in the District as well as maintaining a half-day option for families who request that option. Board Member Ward asked why it was necessary. Mr. Luis Rodriguez stated it is the District's practice but not reflected in the policy and is recommending it be included. Board Member Kerr asked if the District would have to place Dual Credit as well. Dr. Lozier stated it is designated as a Kindergarten-6 elementary program and shared what the Kindergarten options are. Board Member Owens stated a concern about consistency as other grades are not specified as being full day and asked if there was a different way to word the proposed language. Mr. Luis Rodriguez indicated he would revisit the proposed language.

6.040 – Curriculum Content and Development. The policy change reflects statutory requirements for curriculum and instruction, which are audited by the Regional Office of Education annually. Board Member Ward asked why drug and substance abuse/prevention is necessary in grades Kindergarten through 4th grade. Mr. Luis Rodriguez stated the language comes from the statutory rubric. Dr. Johnson stated it is not currently in the curriculum for Kindergarten. Board Member Ward asked about 1st through 4th. Dr. Johnson stated the District is working on writing intermediate courses for health and that it would be coming forward to the Board next year. Dr. Johnson stated she did not believe it was currently in the primary grades but can confirm. Board Member Ward asked if parents have the right to opt out. Dr. Lozier replied yes. Board Member Ward asked what other communication skills entailed and what it meant. Dr. Johnson stated handwriting and cursive are some of the pieces coming forward as mandates. Board Member Owens asked if art and music are currently included for Kindergarten. Dr. Johnson responded not at this time as art and music will be included using an integrated approach. Board Member Ward asked if this was another shall or may. Mr. Luis Rodriguez responded these are mandates. Board Member Ward expressed concern over the relationships between drugs, alcohol and violence being taught to Kindergarteners and elementary students and asked who thought up these statutes? Board Member Kerr responded State Legislators. Board Member Ward stated she is really uncomfortable with this policy language for elementary students. Board Member Owens stated even though individuals are uncomfortable there are students who are dealing with this at this age and the District cannot make a determination who is experiencing it at any given time. Mr. Miguel Rodriguez stated the District could look into whether this could be promulgated by the CEO instead of putting into the policy. Board Member Kerr stated parents can see our policies but not what the CEO promulgates. Mr. Luis Rodriguez stated the CEO could make his guidelines public.

Chief Executive Officer Tony Sanders and Student Board Member Jackson Teetor entered meeting at 4:34 p.m.

Board Member Ward shared a concern with paragraphs 13 and 17 (respectively) asking why call out role of labor unions but not the role of free market capitalism and why instruction on black history is separate. Board Member Ward stated black history is a part of American history. Mr. Luis Rodriguez re-stated it is the language reflected in the statute.

6.130 – Programs for Gifted Students. The policy change adds reference to the appropriate Illinois Administrative Code provision for gifted students. Board Member Ward stated she is

fine with the policy but said this is not how the District is implementing the program. Board Member Ward stated she received correspondence from a parent stating the entrance into the program not only depended on academic performance but also whether they were part of an underserved population. Board Member Kerr asked if this had to do with the lawsuit. Dr. Lozier stated one of the reasons was the lawsuit and the other is the equity policy.

6.135 – Accelerated Placement Program. A new policy is being proposed in conformity with PA 100-421. The new policy requires Illinois School Districts to provide Accelerated Program options for students at a younger age in addition to Gifted Student options. Board Member Kerr asked if guidelines are given regarding age and whether Districts can determine differently than us. Mr. Luis Rodriguez responded there currently no guidelines and that Districts could determine differently. Board Member Ward stated this proposal is another unfunded mandate. Board Member Ward asked if this program was for just below gifted. Dr. Lozier stated gifted requirements are specific. The District has students working way beyond 4th grade math but do not qualify for gifted. The District started moving these students to 5th grade math. Dr. Johnson stated we will see questions regarding early admission into Kindergarten and 1st grade which is where it becomes beneficial to have a policy like this. Board Member Ward asked about students were homeschooled. Mr. Luis Rodriguez responded the state recognized homeschooling as non-public education. Dr. Lozier stated the District is currently discussing whether or not to assess every student and the cost implications. Dr. Johnson stated it is the District's recommendation to have parents request the assessment. Dr. Lozier stated the administration is looking into FTE costs and additional dollars for testing. The proposal would come forward to the Board for approval.

6.160 – English Learners. The proposed language updates the name of the policy and addresses students in a manner consistent with the Illinois State Board of Education.

6.163 – Dual Language Program. The proposal amends language to address students in a manner consistent with the Illinois State Board of Education. Board Member Ward expressed concern regarding the overall policy.

6.170 – Title I Programs. This proposal is to include the correct statutory reference to the Every Student Succeeds Act and remove references to LEP (Limited English Proficiency).

6.182 – Health Education/Physical Education. The proposed change amends the scope of possible exemptions for students in paragraph number 2.

6.187 – Access to Student Directory Information. The proposed language requires the CEO/Superintendent/designee to promulgate and maintain procedures to implement this policy. The Chief Legal Officer has created draft procedures for review.


6.200 – Class Size. The proposed language expands the policy beyond the scope of the building principal in working to create reasonable and equitable enrollment throughout the District. Board Member Ward suggested the language “same throughout the District” be added. Board Member Ward stated some parents are under the impression class size and teacher/student ratio is different in different areas of the District. Dr. Lozier stated the District has the same

guidelines across the district; however, Title I schools have the ability to hire extra teachers which then lowers the class size. Mr. Miguel Rodriguez stated they could add language to reflect bilingual classes require a different formula.

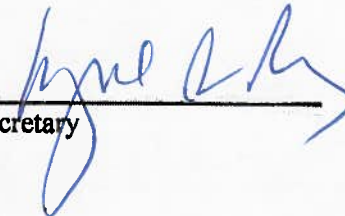
6.214 – Access to Electronic Network. A new policy is being proposed to adopt heavily from the IASB Model policy. Amending the existing policy would require significant strikethroughs and additions. The new policy would cross reference 6.040 as required and includes mandates to teach students about internet safety and appropriate behavior. Board Member Ward asked why the District would need to disable the filtering device for research. Mr. Luis Rodriguez responded he could envision a scenario where someone would have to get data from our network requiring that filtering devices be disabled. Board Member Ward stated some language appeared contradictory wherein the District ensures student and staff's privacy, safety and security but also states staff should expect no privacy. Mr. Miguel Rodriguez responded the language could be modified; however, the intention is for staff to know they should expect no privacy if they use their computers for personal reasons ensuring District computers are used primarily for work.

The meeting adjourned at 5:16 PM

Approved this 18th day of June, 2018



President



Secretary