

Parent Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

September 11th, 2017

The meeting was called to order by Katina Weller (seconded by Mark Hayes) at 6 PM. A motion was made to approve the agenda by Mark Hayes (seconded by Jill Rosentreter). The Pledge of Allegiance then took place at 6:02)

The meeting was started with an explanation for why we the meeting was taking place (SB100). This explanation was given by Angela Turcol with additional information being provided by Mark Hayes.

6:03 Mark Goldasich and Amy Gerdes enter the meeting.

Ms. Turcol open up general discussion in regards to the district's handbooks. Conversation was then started with the Elementary handbook first.

Mr. Hayes stated that he felt that the handbooks may be confusing to parents.

Ms. Turcol stated that she has not had many parental concerns or questions in regards to the elementary handbook but does point out that more coverage of the handbook, when you have a captive audience, would not be a bad thing. Mrs. Polo (Parent of a kindergarten student) liked the idea of more parental involvement in order to open lines of communication between, student, staff and school.

Ms. Turcol stated that there is more of an effort to include parents into the educational environment.

Mr. Hayes stated that he feels as if the elementary hand book is very "black and white" where he middle school/high school includes more gray area. One of the largest issues discussed was the fact that many parents do not review the handbook until something bad/wrong has taken place.

Ms. Turcol clarified by saying the largest challenge is to get more clarification out to the public.

Mr. Hayes asked if it would be possible to present a condensed version of the handbook, in a power point version, to parents at different times throughout the year. Mrs. Polo stated that she liked the idea of a power point presentation being done. Mrs. Gerdes stated that the power point could be played at stop and drop in each teacher's room. Each teacher would display the same power point in each of their rooms.

Mrs. Rosentreter discussed further complications arise when parents have students at different buildings (each building has its own handbook). A conversation was then brought up about what happens to the handbooks after registration takes place. Most felt that handbooks were simply discarded after they are distributed. Mr. Goldasich stated that the high school handbook had been downloaded over 2500 times and that people do pay attention to them.

All members of the committee agreed that handbooks all mesh very well together and that all seem to be age appropriate.

Mrs. Polo asked about the cell phone policies in each building, as she thought there may be some discrepancies in the buildings. After conferring with each building principal it was found that everyone

was using the same policy. Mr. Hayes stated that Board of Education is also struggling with what to do with the cell phone issue.

Mrs. Polo also asked what happens if a student is expelled or suspended for a long period of time. She was unclear if that student was able to make up their work for those absences. Mrs. Rosentreter informed Mrs. Polo that work during a suspension can be made up for full credit. If credit was not allowed it would be considered "double jeopardy"

Mr. Hayes informed the group that when an expulsion takes place the student is normally provided an alternative educational setting (SAFE school in Carlinville).

Ms. Turcol was given a question in regards to why 98-100% is considered an A+ in the high school handbook. Mr. Owsley stated that he would look into the matter as he did not have an answer at the current time.

A question did arise about 7.190 Policy Letter and how it might change in regards to medical marijuana and possible transgender issues.

Mr. Hayes stated that the board had seen some information on this subject matter but not enough information had been given for the board to make a firm decision yet. Mrs. Rosentreter thought something had recently been passed down and would need to be looked into for future handbook versions.

Mrs. Polo took the time to commend all the educators in the room for what they do in the face of all the challenges that we now face (cell phones, medical marijuana, and transgender issues). She also asked about what counseling services are made available to students in the different buildings. The building principals provided a clear picture of what counseling options are currently available to our students,

Ms. Turcol brought up another major challenge facing the district (student attendance). Mrs. Polo asked if the recent changes in transportation could be hindering student attendance. Ms. Turcol stated that she believed it was. Mrs. Polo asked if we could possibly provide door to door service but Mr. Hayes stated that in these financial times that was not a realistic possibility.

No public to be recognized

Motion was made to adjourn at 6:55PM

Committee decided it might be a good idea to meet later in the year prior to the approval by Board of the next handbook. (Spring).