

SCHOOL DISTRICT U-46
ELGIN, ILLINOIS

Board Curriculum Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 4, 2019

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, and Melissa Owens. Also in attendance were Tony Sanders, Chief Executive Officer, Miguel Rodriguez, Chief Legal Officer, Steve Burger, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education Instruction and Equity, Josh Carpenter, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, Ann Chan, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, Suzanne Johnson, Deputy Superintendent of Instruction, Lela Majstorovic, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Schools Instruction and Equity, Ronald Raglin, Assistant Superintendent of Support Programs and Alignment, Ushma Shah, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education Instruction and Equity, Luis Rodriguez, Assistant Attorney and Brian Lindholm, Coordinator of Strategic Initiatives.

1. Open Meeting and Introduction

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

2. Discussion of Board Policy Section 6 – Curriculum and Instruction

Luis Rodriguez proceeded to go through the policies as follows:

6.010 – Implementation of the Transfer Provisions of the No Child Left Behind Act. Strikes the policy as the provisions of the underlying statute no longer apply. The Committee accepted these changes.

6.015 – Instructional Goals. Removes instructional council reference on the bottom of the policy. The Committee accepted these changes.

6.020 – School Year Calendar and Day. Adds Chief Executive Officer (CEO) as necessary, and adds language regarding commemorative holidays as reflected in the Illinois School Code. In response to Mrs. Ward, Luis Rodriguez stated a list could be sent to the Board members showing the commemorative holidays that take place while the students are in attendance. Ms. Kerr stated she would prefer a link be provided on the policy providing these holidays. Luis Rodriguez confirmed a link would be added to this policy providing the list of commemorative holidays. Mrs. Ward asked who made the law regarding “shall devote a portion of their school day”. Luis Rodriguez responded state legislature creates statutes.

Ann Chan, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, joined the meeting at 4:22 p.m.

6.030 – Organization of Instruction. Adds language that reflects the District’s current practice regarding full day/half day kindergarten options for parents. Ms. Kerr and Mrs. Ward asked if the language regarding exploring the plausibility and costs of expanding the middle school

program from 6th to 8th grade needed to be in the policy. In response, Mr. Sanders stated it did not but he wanted the language in the policy in order to receive feedback from the Board on this topic. In response to Mrs. Ward, Dr. Carpenter stated there are upcoming Kindergarten Roundups and he will make sure to follow-up on the awareness of half-day kindergarten availability. The Committee accepted these changes.

6.040 – Curriculum Content and Development. Adds CEO as necessary, as well as curriculum requirement language from the Illinois School Code that all Illinois School Districts are required to provide – including recent traffic and bicycle safety requirements. Mrs. Ward voiced concern regarding the language indicating drug and substance abuse prevention from kindergarten through 8th grade. Luis Rodriguez responded and stated the language is in the Illinois School Code. Mrs. Ward asked where comprehensive health education program requirements come from. Luis Rodriguez stated state law encompasses ISBE rules, Administrative Code and those regularly change. Luis Rodriguez further stated when that language is placed in policy, the language is to consider all things including prospective changes in the law.

Ushma Shah, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education Instruction and Equity, joined the meeting at 4:25 p.m.

6.050 – Instructional Leadership. Adds CEO as necessary. The Committee accepted these changes.

6.120 – Programs for Students with Disabilities. Adds language that allows the policy to remain compliant with the law in the event of any changes to the law prior to the next policy revision cycle. Also codifies more legal specificity as to program options and procedural safeguard requirements for special needs students. The Committee accepted these changes.

6.121 – Home and Hospital Instruction. Adopts slightly more specific language from the IASB model policy as requested. The Committee accepted these changes.

6.130 – Programs for Gifted Students. Adds language that reflects the current definition of “gifted” students and recognizes the diverse demographic of gifted students. The proposal also adds reference to the pertinent section of the Illinois Administrative Code. These changes reflect the previous open session discussions between Ms. April Wells and the Board on the Gifted Program. In response to Mrs. Ward, Luis Rodriguez stated they will confer with Ms. Wells regarding the intention of comparable backgrounds.

6.160 – English Learners. Adds CEO as necessary and changes the title of the policy and the content to reflect current ISBE rules and regulations. The Committee accepted these changes.

6.165 – Dual Language Program. Adds CEO as necessary and improves the policy language to more accurately reflect the program and properly identify participating students. In response to Mrs. Ward, it was decided to have the language reflect “...and positive cross-cultural competencies necessary to compete globally versus “global society” as stated. The Committee accepted these changes.

6.170 – Title I Programs. Adds CEO as necessary, correctly references the Every Student Succeeds Act, and adds clarifying language. The Committee accepted these changes.

Steve Burger, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education Instruction and Equity, joined the meeting at 4:39 p.m.

6.171 – Education of Homeless Children. Adds CEO as necessary, as well as clarifying language that ensures compliance with the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. Also, the proposed edits reflect the proper common reference to the statute (McKinney-Vento). The Committee accepted these changes.

6.180 – Career and Technical Education. Changes the name of the policy to properly reference the curriculum area, adds language to align policy with practice and references the appropriate section of the Illinois Administrative Code. The Committee accepted these changes.

6.181 – Work Experience Opportunities. Replaces “cooperative” with “collaborative.” The Committee accepted these changes.

6.182 – Health Education/Physical Education. Adds ROTC exemption language as provided for in the Illinois Administrative Code. The Committee accepted these changes.

6.187 – Access to Student Directory Information. Adds language to clarify that emancipated students have rights regarding directory information and requires the CEO to create and maintain procedures to implement this policy. The Committee accepted these changes.

6.200 – Class Size. Adds CEO as necessary and replaces “principals” with “District staff.” The Committee accepted these changes.

6.210 – Instructional Materials. Replaces “opposing” with “multiple.” Also restates an individual student’s right to submit suggestions or complaints about the curriculum to the CEO/Superintendent/designee and/or submit a request to be exempt from particular instructional material to the CEO/Superintendent/designee. Mrs. Ward suggested changing the language to read “opposing and/or multiple” as well as replacing the language in paragraph number 5 to reflect “Represent the many religions, ethnic, racial and cultural groups globally”. The Committee accepted these changes.

6.212 – Special Interest Materials. Adds CEO as necessary. The Committee accepted these changes.

6.213 – Software Installation. Removes the reference to the administrative handbook. The Committee accepted these changes.

6.214 – Access to Electronic Networks. The new policy language replaces outdated language as it relates to the use of technology for curriculum purposes. The proposed changes align our policy with the current model policy provided by the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) for Illinois school districts. The Committee accepted these changes.

6.240 – Field Trip and Excursions. Adds CEO as necessary, requires that Field Trips and Excursions are approved in line with the CEO’s procedures to ensure proper oversight, and also adds language codifying that the district does not sponsor privately arranged trips including those privately arranged by staff members. The Committee accepted these changes.

6.255 – Student Assemblies. Adds CEO as necessary and requires that Student Assemblies be organized and approved as prescribed by the CEO/Superintendent/designee. The Committee accepted these changes.

6.270 – Guidance and Counseling Program. Replaces “certified” with “licensed.” Adds additional language that clarifies the responsibilities of staff members that provided guidance and counseling services. Assures that all secondary students will have the opportunity to receive college and career information, and ensure that colleges and other occupational recruiters, including the military, may be given access to schools in order to provide parents with information about options for their students. The proposed changes align our current policy with the model policy provided by the IASB for Illinois school districts. Mrs. Ward requested “with the permission and knowledge of parents” as an addition to the end of the second paragraph. Administration will follow up on the proposed language to see how other districts handle this policy, ensuring protections are in place for students who are going to a counselor to report abuse as well as provisions for students who may be 18 years of age.

6.282 – Student Social and Emotional Development. Adds CEO as necessary. The Committee accepted these changes.

6.283 – Promotion and Retention of Students. Replaces “Limited English Proficient” with “English Learner” as appropriate and adds the proper Administrative Code and Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) citations. The Committee accepted these changes.

6.284 – Programs for Students at Risk of Academic Failure and/or Dropping Out of School and Graduation Incentives Program. Adds CEO as necessary and removes limiting language related to the provision of counseling services. The Committee accepted these changes.

6.285 – Credit and Grade Placement Home-School and Private School Students. Adds CEO as necessary. The Committee accepted these changes.

6.300 – Graduation Requirements. Adds CEO as necessary. The Committee accepted these changes.

6.311 – Experiments Upon or Dissection of Animals. Adds CEO as necessary. The Committee accepted these changes.

6.320 – High School Credit for Non-District Experiences; Course Substitution; Re-Entering Students. Expressly expands the list of non-district experiences for which students can apply for credit. The Committee accepted these changes.

6.340 – Testing and Assessment Programs. Updates the policy language to reflect current practices in the District, including reporting requirements to the Illinois State Board of Education. Removes outdated reference to the Prairie State Achievement Examination. In response to Mrs. Ward’s requested to add language allowing parents to opt their students out, Mr. Sanders stated Administration would need to check with the Illinois State Board of Education as under the current version, the District needs to maintain 98% of the students participate; otherwise, the District would lose federal funding.

6.500 – Student Wellness. Adds CEO as necessary, as well as language that ensures the CEO’s staff retains records as required by the policy. Also adds an additional legal citation (7 C.F.R. Section 210.30(f)). The Committee accepted these changes.

3. Public Participation
There was no public participation.
4. Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at 5:03 PM

Approved this 25th day February, 2019.

/s/ Donna Smith //
President

/s/ Miguel A. Rodriguez //
Secretary