

Meeting Title: Policy Committee Meeting	Meeting Date: Jan. 21, 2015
Meeting Location: KOSD Board Room	Meeting Time: 6:30 pm
Attendees: Annie Shaw, Matt Cesario, Dan Domalik, and Dr. Stropkaj	
<p>Agenda:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 217 – Graduation Requirements 2. 206 – Assignment Within the District 3. 213 – Assessment of Student Progress 4. 214 – Class Rank 5. 216 – Student Records 6. 203 – Communicable Diseases and Immunizations 7. 203.1 – HIV Infection 8. 205 – Post Graduate Students 9. 208 – Withdrawal From School 10. 209 – Health Examinations 11. 211 – Student Accident Insurance 12. 212 – Reporting Pupil Progress <p>Items in red were not discussed.</p>	

Next Scheduled Meeting: Feb. 18, 2015 at 6:30pm in KOSD Board Room

Policy 217 – Graduation Requirements

- For the class of 2017 and beyond, they must take 4 credits of science which will include 1 course of biology, chemistry, physics. Add these requirements in parenthesis under science credits.
- Some number of the 7.5 elective credits should be required to be in the fine arts for class of 2017 and beyond.
 - Fine arts audit is still ongoing but will be finished soon.
 - Our current offerings and staffing level in the fine arts areas at all levels are probably deficient. District is stretched thin.

- Update policy again after Fine Arts audit is complete. Suggestion is 2 credits out of 7.5 total.
- Are students using athletic participation to meet community service requirements?
 - Suggested by a board member that this was occurring.
 - Playing in a sport should not constitute community service. Refereeing or coaching a sport in the community would be an example of community service.
 - Will investigate further. Who is signing off on these hours? Need clearer definitions of what is and isn't community service.
 - Some were in favor of keeping community service requirement and others were against or indifferent. Needs to be REAL community service if it is kept.
- Regarding waiver of graduation requirements: Under what circumstances would the Superintendent ever grant this waiver?
 - This would only be done in a rare and extreme circumstance. State maxes out the number of waivers that can be granted at 1%.
- Do we have middle school "graduation" requirements?
 - No requirements from the state. These could be set at the district level. Can create policy for Middle School curriculum. Dr. Stropkaj will work with Mr. Kattan.
 - Suggestion to add requirement that students take a fine arts class.
 - By state law, credits gained in middle school cannot count toward credits in high school.
- **With changes discussed, policy ready for first reading in February.**

Policy 206 – Assignment Within the District

- Should we define "attendance area"? For our District it has been the same. Dormont goes to Dormont Elementary, Castle Shannon goes to Myrtle, and Greentree goes to Aiken. Update policy to make it specific to our district.
 - Dr. Stropkaj said that he had no intention of changing these boundaries.
- What if the Superintendent wants to assign a student to a different building but the parents object? Who gets the final say?
 - Cannot force someone to attend a different school unless the parents agree. Parents have final say.

- Should we add language regarding promotion and retention of students? This is covered in policy 215.
- **With changes discussed, policy ready for first reading in February.**

Policy 213 – Assessment of Student Progress

- We say very little about these academic standards – where they come from, what they contain, etc. Shouldn't we address that here or provide a reference to where that info exists?
Assessment needs a tie directly into requirements
 - Refers specifically to the PA Core Standards (set by the state). Will revise to say PA Core Standards instead of academic standards.
- Strike inserted grading scale since this could potentially change one day.
- Regarding extra credit
 - Should it stay? Why allow it.
 - Needs to be related to academic work not as a motivator for nonacademic behavior. No extra credit for bringing tissues.
 - May be a factor in grade inflation.
 - Help students who are on the borderline of getting a specific grade. Needs to be given to all students, can't pick and choose who should be eligible.
 - Points for extra work for high level students who need more to do. Extra questions on test or homework for example.
 - Need to work on this section of policy.

Policy 214 – Class Rank

- Why is class rank computed in grades 9-11?
 - Automatically done in computer, but only used internally. Don't publish class rankings till grade 12.
 - Consider not having class rankings like valedictorian and salutatorian. Can lead to more student stress. Why are they important?

- Some college applications have a spot for class rank.
 - A way to reward students who excel academically.
- **With changes discussed, policy ready for first reading in February.**

Policy 216 – Student Records

- Dr. Stropkaj is currently working with the solicitor to revise this policy.

Policy 203 – Communicable Diseases

- Only legally allowed exemptions are for medical reasons, religious beliefs or philosophical/strong moral or ethical convictions. Parent/guardian submits letter if filing for exemption.
- Need to add philosophical/strong moral or ethical conviction as case for exemption in the policy.
- Says “...or other authorized...”; should say “...or otherwise authorized...”.
- Change “...verification of school nurse...” to “...verification by school nurse...”
- **With changes discussed, policy ready for first reading in February.**

Policy 203.1 – HIV Infection

- Do we have a reference for the statement “...current evidence that HIV infection is not normally transmissible by infected individuals within the school setting.”?
 - No reference for this statement, but according to PA department of health, the only bodily fluids proven to spread HIV are: blood, semen, vaginal, breast milk, and other body fluids containing blood.
 - Discussed revising that wording to be clearer or strike the statement.
- Who is the screening team? The building principal and the school nurse. Add this wording.
- Two areas that seem to be lacking here: Policies on school nurse activities (e.g. needle safety) and exposure to bodily fluids (blood, vomit, etc.). Are there any unique risks in those areas that should be addressed?

- The nursing staff provides bloodborne pathogens training to faculty every year that would cover these sorts of topics. Handling of needles and exposure to bodily fluids would be treated the same way if a student was infected or not. Always make the assumption that infection could be present.
- **With changes discussed, policy ready for first reading in February.**

Policy 211 – Student Accident Insurance

- This policy seems very thin. Do we have a PSBA example? Or an example from another district? Why are there no references to any external sources (e.g. SC)?”
 - This is the PSBA template. The only mention of this in the school code is that districts are able to offer it if they wish. Keystone Oaks stopped offering this a number of years ago.
- **Policy ready for first reading in February.**

Policy 212 – Reporting Pupil Progress

- The policy needs to mandate real-time updating of PowerSchool by all teachers. Late/incomplete use of PowerSchool can be a big problem.
- This policy focuses too much on ‘failure’ and ‘unsatisfactory’ performance. All students and parents should have immediate and complete access to student grades and performance no matter what their grades are.
- Adjust wording to reflect that progress reports are given for all students, not just ones with poor grades.
- Allow for email notification by teachers to parents/guardians.
- Dr. Stropkaj will further revise this policy based on discussion.