

Policy & Governance Meeting
March 4, 2019

Present: Joe Luginbill, Eric Torres, Charles Vue

Also present: Mary Ann Hardebeck, Jim Schmitt, Kaying Xiong, Abby Johnson, Kim Koller and Patti Iverson, Recording Secretary

Chair Eric Torres called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m.

Public Comment:

Tim Molepske from the Boy Scouts of America asked committee members to allow their organization access to opening day activities to help recruit students. He said he would like the Board to review its policies to find a better way to serve community groups.

Laura Hurd asked the committee to consider revising the policy to allow access to outside agencies that serve students. In the past she was able to set up a booth at sign-in days and this year she was not allowed to do that because the District must provide equal access to all. She said as a result of changes made, community organizations are no longer allowed to provide handouts to families or come on school groups to answer questions. She said the Partnership Coordinators work to develop programs and provide opportunities to families, and she asked that they be allowed to do their job and partner with the community.

Brandon Adkins said a large reason why his family chose to live in Eau Claire was because of its school system. He felt that the more opportunities that are available for children, the better the community will be. Part of the Scouts ability to be successful is to reach them through the school district and noted that some of the changes made regarding access have impeded on their ability to reach out to families and communicate with parents. He asked the committee to consider changes to its policy to allow non-profits access for programs that are meaningful for students.

Policy 491 – Custodial/Non-Custodial Parent Rights

Kaying Xiong shared a draft of revisions to Policy 491. She suggested changing the name of the policy to “Children of Divorced/Separated Parents and Parents Not Sharing the Same Household. The committee read the draft.

There was discussion about the importance of executing court orders with families, so the District is not put in the middle of any situations. It is the responsibility of the families to share the court order with building administration. If a parent disagrees with the other parent, it is their responsibility to go back to the court to get an updated court order.

Mr. Luginbill said that the current rules have a statement saying that no employee of the District shall knowingly disobey or disregard any provision of a Court Order relating to any child enrolled in a school subject to District control, upon receipt of a certified copy of such order. It was suggested that this statement be added to the policy and that it be brought back to P & G after revisions are made.

There was discussion about including something in rules about ‘involuntary separation’ of families through ICE for example.

Dr. Xiong was asked to make a few changes to the policy and bring it back again for review.

Policy 886 – District and Tribal Communication and Collaboration

Kaying Xiong shared a draft of a new policy entitled District and Tribal Communication and Collaboration. The committee read the draft.

The group talked about the District’s work with tribal nations. Most of the students in the ECASD are from the Ho Chunk Nation. The District is responsible to communicate with all tribes but because the students we serve are from Ho Chunk, that is what this policy relates to.

The committee was ok with the policy as drafted with one small change made by Joe Luginbill. Committee members asked for a committee report on how comprehensive the District’s collaboration is with tribes of Wisconsin and to what extent we are working with them to enforce Act 31.

Joe Luginbill moved, second by Charles Vue, to bring Policy 886 forward to the next available Board meeting for a first reading . Carried by unanimous voice vote.

Policy 443.5 –Student Use of Cell Phones or Beepers

This policy was last revised in July 2004 and is not in line with current practices. Kim Koller shared what the expectations are at each level with regards to mobile devices.

The committee directed administration to look at WASB sample language for this policy and to determine if it can be combined with Policy 364.1 – Student Acceptable Use of Technology or if it should be kept as its own policy. If they are not combined, they should at least be aligned.

Policies 371.1 – Student Equal Access to School Facilities & 825 – Distribution of Non-School Related Materials

Joe Luginbill shared sample language for Policy 825 to add an exemption for Youth-Serving Patriotic Societies listed under Title 36 of the U.S. Code. This would include Boy Scouts. Ms. Koller said the law says that if you allow access for one you must allow it for all.

Ms. Koller was asked to provide legal counsel with the history of equal access in Eau Claire including the sign-in day experience at the beginning of the 2018-19 school year and proposed policy changes in relation to equal access and Title 36. The attorney could give advice on how to meet the obligations of both the equal access law and the law that involves Title 36 groups.

It was suggested that Policy 371.1 – Student Equal Access to School Facilities be brought back for further discussion, perhaps in conjunction with Policy 881.3 – Relations with Churches.

Joe Luginbill moved, second by Charles Vue, to adjourn. Carried by unanimous voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 10 a.m.