



STERLING PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Where kids achieve!

■ PCR COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES ■

TO: BOARD OF EDUCATION
FROM: TAD EVERETT, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
RE: NOVEMBER 10, 2010, POLICY AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

Committee's Purpose Statement

The purpose of the SPS Policy-Community Relations Committee is to continually improve the Board of Education's Policies so that students have the best opportunity at success. Additionally, this committee will determine the best and most effective ways to communicate decisions, processes, and information to students, parents, and the community.

2010-2011 Goals:

- The Superintendent and PCR Committee will continually monitor all current Board of Education policies, making any necessary revisions or additions by May 31, 2011.
- By May 31, 2011, the Superintendent will complete a comprehensive Communication Plan for the District.
- In order to establish and maintain positive community partnerships during the 2010-2011 school year, each District Office Administrator and Building Principal will serve on at least one formal community organization.

Committee Members in Attendance:

Chair Bob Allen, Jay Van Horn, and Tad Everett. Marc Geil was absent. Also present was Jeff Hippen and Jill Froeter.

Meeting Notes:

1. Call to order – 12:00 PM
2. Public comments – None
3. Technology – Jeff Hippen
 - Mr. Hippen explained the filters on the District's website server that monitor internet usage and the GroupWise email system.
 - The aim of web filtering is to keep District internet usage education-related. Mr. Hippen showed reports on the District's internet usage by categories, such as educational sites, search engines, etc.
 - Committee members suggested a couple of minor changes to the website's front page and Mr. Hippen has made those changes.
 - As a part of the District's communication plan, Mr. Hippen has placed templates of the District logo, and formats for newsletters, PowerPoint presentations, and Channel 11 slides in a folder on the I:Drive that staff members have access. From outside the District, the folder can be accessed at www.sterlingpublicschools.org/logo.
 - Mr. Hippen is looking at the data on Edline usage and will present a report at a later date. The next step for Edline is to implement it in grades 3-5 by next year. A pilot program could happen this year at the 3-5 level.

4. Community signage update

- SHS signs
 - An endowment to the Sterling Schools Foundation, along with other donations, has purchased new signs for SHS. One sign will be at Fourth Avenue and LeFevre, and the two others will be on the exterior walls of the Auditorium on Miller Road. A new sign will also be put up for the District Office on the south exterior wall of SHS facing LeFevre by the District Office sidewalk.
 - Mr. Everett will check on City ordinances for those signs and also on replacing visitor parking signs on Fifth Avenue.
 - Mr. Everett has received price quotes for the directional signs for SHS which will be placed at main entrance routes into Sterling. He is waiting on approval from IDOT for permission to put up the signs.
- No cell phones in school zone signs
 - In partnership with the City, the District purchased Cell Phone Use Prohibited signs which can be placed around the schools.
 - Mr. Everett will check with the police department for their recommendation on placement of the signs.

5. Board meeting public participation

- Board Policy 2.230, Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings
 - Mr. Everett asked Committee members to review the policy as an informational item, but stated there were no changes necessary at this time.
- Communication from Visitors form
 - This form is used at Board meetings in conjunction with the above policy. Mr. Everett requested that three questions be added at the bottom, asking the individual if he or she has spoken to an administrator about his or her concern.

6. Board Policy 7.245, No Pass-No Play

- The Committee discussed revisions to this policy which had been requested by Board members.
- Committee members discussed how to clarify the policy, and were in consensus to make the revisions from their discussion and then present it to the full Board for first reading and discussion at the November Board meeting.

7. IASB Policy Service Revisions

- The Committee reviewed IASB Policy Service suggested revisions to the following Board Polices. The revisions will be presented for first reading at the November 17, 2010, Board meeting.

2.20	Powers and Duties of the School Board	Amended by Public Act 96-998. Board members no longer have the duty to visit district schools
2.100	Board Member Conflict of Interest	Changes "School Code and Public Officer Prohibited Activities Act" to say "State Law"
2.110	Qualifications, Term, and Duties of Board Officers	Updated to comply with Public Act 96-998 regarding when official acts of the Board are submitted to the treasurer
4.50	Payment Procedures	Amended by Public Act 96-998. Treasurer is authorized to pay Social Security taxes, pension contributions, utility bills, and other recurring bills without further Board approval
5.190	Teacher Qualifications	Updates deadline for teachers to provide a transcript of credits earned to September 1 st unless an applicable collective bargaining agreement provides otherwise

5.290	ESP – Employment Termination and Suspensions	Amends deadline for giving a final paycheck to an ESP employee who was RIF'd to next regular pay date following the last day of employment
6.320	High School Credit for Proficiency	Updated in response to PA 96-1061. School Code no longer allows districts to grant consumer education proficiency credit
7.20	Harassment of Students Prohibited	Updated by PA 96-952 to add clear directive that no student shall be bullied on the basis of any of the protected classifications
7.180	Preventing Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment	Updates policy to comply with PA 96-952. The added first paragraphs allow a Board to consider its goals for preventing bullying.
7.190	Student Discipline	Added a provision on sexting
7.285	Food Allergy Management Program	NEW POLICY – School Boards are required to implement a food allergy policy no later than January 1, based on ISBE and IDPH guidelines.

8. Meeting dates -12:00 PM
 - Thursday, January 13
 - The meeting date for March will be determined at the January meeting.
9. Board Member requests for information
 - None
10. Other
 - None
11. Adjournment: 1:37 PM