

Subject: Fwd: Homework Club/Discipline policy
From: Eric Bush <bushe@mokena159.org>
Date: 9/20/2023, 11:10 AM
To: Lisa Zielinski <zielinskil@mokena159.org>

Chain of command broken by not letting Dr. Cohen handle before she intervened.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Kelli MacMillan <macmillank@mokena159.org>
Date: Wed, Sep 20, 2023 at 9:38 AM
Subject: Fwd: Homework Club/Discipline policy
To: Mark Cohen <cohenm@mokena159.org>
CC: Eric Bush <bushe@mokena159.org>

Dr Cohen,

How and when do we respond to this parent?

I'd like to discuss this please. I had a parent bring this to my attention after the email from Mr McAtee (last week?). I referred her back to him to ask about it. Do you know if he had other parents question him on taking away the recess? Or other parents complain about the "policy"?

I intended to bring it up to you and it fell off my radar. I was put off by his email to parents as well. I can see also, the problem with taking away a recess, how can we do that? Not only is Mr McAtee advertising this, the teachers are as well.

1. Have you seen this policy that exists at MIS?
2. Were you aware of the law that went into effect in 2021 (I believe)?

I see her point on BOE policy also. This overlaps with what I've already sent multiple emails about with regard to us and our policies.

Let's discuss please,
Kelli MacMillan

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: [REDACTED]
Date: September 19, 2023 at 10:18:43 PM CDT
To: mcateed@mokena159.org, schoolboard@mokena159.org, cohenm@mokena159.org
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Homework Club/Discipline policy

Hi Mr. McAtee,

My husband and I have some concerns and questions regarding the school's homework and discipline policies, which we believe require further clarification and discussion.

We have been informed that if our son does not complete his homework assignments, he will miss recess and attend Homework Club as a "learning opportunity." We would appreciate a more detailed explanation of what this learning opportunity entails and who is responsible for its oversight. As it was stated by the teachers, homework club is not a tutoring program, so we are curious about what educational benefits it offers to the students.

Our main concern is that this approach associates missing homework with punitive measures, such as missing recess, which goes against Illinois state law's 30-minute daily recess requirement for students in grades k-5. We would appreciate clarification on how the current process complies with this law.

Additionally, we were informed that failing to complete homework assignments results in a "strike" as part of the discipline policy. We have reviewed the school board policies and could not find a discipline policy outlining the strike system. Please see two documents that state the discipline policy. A school policy can only be in place with the board's approval, and per the parent handbook and district policy, it is not stated.

We understand that addressing homework compliance is important, but we are curious about how homework is considered a behavior under the Behavior Intervention Sequence that you have discussed. Furthermore, we are interested in the research or data that supports the use of Homework Club and the Behavior Intervention Sequence currently in place.

Considering the well-documented impact of physical activity and relaxation on a child's development, we would like to inquire if the school has explored positive behavioral intervention and support (PBIS) as an alternative to negative reinforcement in homework compliance. I appreciate you taking the time to answer these questions. I hope my husband and I will receive more than "that is the way we always have done it" as we heard from you three times during our son's [REDACTED] with other questions we asked about curriculum.

Thank you,

