

Document Status: Draft Update

8:110 Public Suggestions and Concerns

The Board of Education is interested in receiving suggestions and concerns from members of the community. Any individual may make a suggestion or express a concern by contacting any District or School office. Community members who e-mail the District or any District employee or board member are expected to abide by the standards in Board policy 6:235, Access to Electronic Networks, and should, to the extent possible, limit their communications to relevant individuals. [PRESSPlus1](#) All suggestions and/or concerns will be referred to the appropriate level staff member or District administrator who is most able to respond in a timely manner. Each concern or suggestion shall be considered on its merit.

An individual who is not satisfied may file a grievance under Board policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*. The Board encourages, but does not require, individuals to follow the channels of authority prior to filing a grievance. Neither this policy nor the *Uniform Grievance Procedure* creates an independent right to a hearing before the Board.

Also please refer to the following current agreement:

Collective Bargaining Agreement Between The Board of Education Oak Park District 97 and The Oak Park Teachers' Association IEA-NEA

LEGAL REF.:

115 ILCS 5/14(c-5), III. Educational Labor Relations Act.

CROSS REF.: 2:140 (Communications To and From the Board), 2:230 (Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings and Petitions to the Board), 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), 3:30 (Chain of Command), 6:235 (Access to Electronic Networks), 6:260 (Complaints About Curriculum, Instructional Materials and Programs), 8:10 (Connection with the Community)

~~ADOPTED: September 22, 2014~~

PRESSPlus Comments

PRESSPlus 1. The III. Educational Labor Relations Act requires employers to establish email policies in an effort to prohibit the use of its email system by outside sources. 115 ILCS 5/14(c-5), added by P.A. 101-620. Policy 6:235, *Access to Electronic Networks*, states that the district's network, which includes its email system, is not a public forum for general use. Further, acceptable uses of the network by any party are limited to uses in support of education and/or research or for legitimate school business purposes. However, see policy 6:235 at footnote 6, available at **PRESS** Online by logging in at www.iasb.com, for a discussion of potential liability under the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution if the district wants to "block" specific third parties based on message content. Including this statement also discourages school community members from engaging in the disruptive practice of mass *cc'ing* district staff who have no involvement in a particular issue. **Issue 103, March 2020**