



Oak Park Elementary School District 97

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**TO: Members, Board of Education
Dr. Albert Roberts, Superintendent**

FROM: Chris Jasculca

RE: First Reading of Policies

DATE: March 13, 2012

The policy committee (Jim Gates, Amy Felton and Chris Jasculca) received recommended revisions to the following three board policies from the district's administration and Neola, the district's policy services provider.

- Policy 2440 – Summer School
- Policy 5200 – Attendance
- Policy 8500 – Food Services

The committee reviewed/discussed the recommended revisions to these policies to ensure they are legally compliant and in alignment with the district's role and responsibilities to deliver a high-quality education to the children of Oak Park. The proposed changes include:

- Policy 2440 (Summer School) – The policy committee is recommending several revisions to this policy based on the administration's proposed changes to the district's summer school program, which were presented to the board on February 28, 2012. These revisions include:
 - Adding the language from the first sentence into other sections of the policy to make it flow better; deleting the first sentence.
 - Changing the first sentence of the second paragraph from:

The District may offer a summer school program which provides for remedial and/or enrichment instruction at the elementary level, special education programs and other special programs.

to:

The District may offer a summer school program which provides for remedial and/or enrichment instruction at the elementary and middle school levels.

This revision reflects the fact that summer school, which includes the Special Education Extended School Year program and School Daze program, is offered at the elementary and middle school levels.
 - Change the final sentence of the policy from:

The District requires students who do not meet District standards in reading, language arts, and/or mathematics to attend a mandatory summer school program.

to:

The District may require students who do not meet District standards in reading, language arts, and/or mathematics to attend its summer school program; and fees may be charged to cover the expenses incurred.

This revision highlights the district's proposal to change its summer school program from one that is mandatory for students who do not meet the standards in certain subject areas to one that offers students the opportunity to participate in the program based on a set of criteria that includes grades, assessments and teacher recommendations.

- Policy 5200 (Attendance) – The policy committee is recommending two revisions to this policy to align it with the Illinois School Code. These revisions include:

- Add the following two sentences to the end of the fourth paragraph to reflect the change in 105 ILCS 5/26-2a that defines a chronic or habitual truant as someone who is absent without valid cause for five percent or more of the previous 180 regular attendance days (used to be 10 percent):

Repeated infractions of Board policy requiring the attendance of enrolled students may result in the suspension or expulsion of the student from the District program. A chronic or habitual truant is defined as a student who is absent without valid cause for five percent (5%) or more of the previous 180 regular attendance days.

- Delete item I at the end of the policy, which states that “during ISAT testing, students whose parents do not grant permission for testing will be able to attend classes during non test taking time.” Doing so will bring the policy into alignment with the Illinois School Code, which states that “All pupils enrolled in a public or state-operated elementary schools.....shall be required to participate in the State assessment, whether by taking the regular assessment, with or without accommodation, or by participating in an alternate form of the assessment. B) "It is the responsibility of each district or other affected entity to ensure that all students required to participate in the State assessment do so.” (23 Illinois Administrative Code 1, Subtitle A, Education Chapter 1 - State Board of Education Sub chapter a: Public School Recognition)

- Policy 8500 (Food Services) – The policy committee is recommending two revisions to this policy to reflect the district's current practices. These revisions include:

- Change the first sentence of the last paragraph from:

No foods or beverages, other than those associated with the District's food-service program, are to be sold during food-service hours/meal periods.

to:

No foods or beverages are to be sold during food-service hours/meal periods other than those associated with the District's food-service program, or those sold with the approval of the Superintendent or designee and in conjunction with the waiver granted by the Illinois School Board of Education that permits a modification of the rules governing School Food Services.

This revision reflects the fact the district currently holds a waiver granted by the Illinois School Board of Education that permits competitive food sales during the school day on school property for the benefit of not-for-profit organizations that support the district's educational programs.

- Change the first sentence of the last paragraph of the policy from:

The District shall serve only nutritious food as determined by the Food Service Department and shall not purchase with food service funds and shall not serve, in any food service area during meal-serving hours, foods of minimally nutritious value, such as carbonated beverages, water ices, chewing gum, hard candy (including breath mints and cough drops), jellies and gums, marshmallow candies, fondant (creamy sugar candy), licorice, spun candy and candy-coated popcorn.

to:

The District shall serve only nutritious food as determined by the Food Service Department and shall not purchase with food service funds and shall not serve, in any food service area during meal-serving hours, foods of minimally nutritious value.

This revision reflects the practice by the district to keep policy language general.

Attached are the policies that are being presented to the board tonight for a first reading. The recommended changes from the committee are featured in bold text. All of these policies have been made available for review by the general public via the Policies/Publications page (<http://www.op97.k12.il.us/boe/policies.html>) on the district's Web site.

A second reading and approval of these policies is scheduled for the board meeting on April 10, 2012.

Attachments:

- Policy 2440 – Summer School
- Policy 5200 – Attendance
- Policy 8500 – Food Services