

Parent-Teacher Advisory Committee on Discipline and  
Behavioral Intervention Committee Minutes  
February 9, 2026

I. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 4:03 pm. Dr. Schmidt welcomed those attending and introductions were made. He thanked everyone for attending and provided an overview of the agenda and encouraged everyone to ask questions.

II. Roll Call of Attendees

Attendance:

Dr. Yadi Alfaro, Priscilla Bastic Dr. Anne Bowers, Marcy Clark, Robyn Cnota, Chavez Epps, Megan Gaafar, Ana Gremillion, Erin Karpus, Kurt Kramer, Terri Kumiega, Laura Picardi, Officer Jody Porras, Dominica Preston, Dan Rack, Dr. William Schmidt, Jennifer Vieu, Justin Warnke, Alisa Zawodny

Student Representative: Camille Bastic and Ben Whipple

Absent: Liz Epley

III. Approval of 2025 Minutes

Kurt Kramer made the motion to approve the 2025 minutes. Marcy Clark seconded. The motion carried.

IV. Review of School Code Requirements

Dr. Schmidt provided an explanation of the School Code and specified the reason for this annual meeting and what must be covered. The Parent Teacher Advisory Committee reviews our student discipline policies and procedures. The School Code also allows us to combine with another committee within the district. We will also perform the duties assigned to the Behavior Intervention Committee to discuss and monitor the processes and procedures for using behavioral interventions.

We are required to meet once a year. The agenda spells out what we must cover. We are charged with discussing, clarifying, asking questions or providing suggestions to our existing safety and discipline policies and procedures - reminded the committee that our Discipline Policy and Student Handbook are online. Dr. Schmidt will bring forth any comments, recommendations, and/or ideas to the February 23, 2026, Board meeting.

Dr. Schmidt asked if there were any questions or comments. No comments from the committee.

V. Review of Board Policies and/or Regulations

**3520: Safety**

Dr. Schmidt explained that this is our general policy that governs our safety protocols. It guides the district regarding emergency plans, emergency safety drills, and the crisis response plan. It also covers accidents and medical emergency procedures, which include AED information.

Dr. Schmidt asked if there were any questions or comments. No comments from the committee.

**4230: Maintaining Student Discipline**

Dr. Schmidt explained this is our general umbrella policy for student discipline. It provides the general guidelines, supports, and expectations for managing and maintaining student discipline in the classroom.

Dr. Schmidt asked if there were any comments or questions. No comments from the committee.

### **5020: Harassment of Students is Prohibited**

Dr. Schmidt explained the difference between the Harassment policy and the Bullying policy, including the process followed if it is a complaint of bullying vs. a complaint of harassment. He talked about the contents of the policy, including how to make a report and how the District would investigate and respond.

Dr. Schmidt asked if there were any comments or questions. No comments from the committee.

### **5310: Search and Seizure**

Dr. Schmidt stated that we have a different standard than the police do. Students walk in knowing there are no reasonable expectations of privacy on school property. Dr. Schmidt stated that we do not require a search warrant to keep students safe if there is a reasonable suspicion, rumor, or tip. We have the right to search lockers, pockets, etc., to keep the building safe. Any parents of students involved in an investigation that results in a search are notified after the investigation.

Dr. Schmidt asked Mr. Warnke to speak about the canine drug search at Jefferson. Mr. Warnke stated that they use it as a proactive measure to show that drugs have no place in our schools. They have never found any drugs during the drills, other than during staged events by police with the school's permission. Mr. Warnke explained that the District communicates with the parents when a drill takes place.

Dr. Schmidt asked if there were any more questions or comments.

One parent asked if there was a safety incident, like a weapon found, do you notify all parents or just the parents of the student(s) involved.

Mr. Warnke replied that it would depend on what it is and how realistic it is.

Dr. Schmidt replied that there are specific requirements we are legally bound to follow regarding whom to notify.

No further comments from the committee.

### **5365: Student Behavior**

Dr. Schmidt stated that Policy #5365 is the main conduct/behavior policy and is very detailed. It talks about when and where behavior is prohibited. Further, the policy lists all 22 behaviors that are examples of misconduct or gross disobedience and subject to school administration discipline. The policies are drafted in alignment with the Illinois School Code. It clearly defines where it applies and what disciplinary measures at the school/District's disposal. This is also reiterated in the online handbook that is updated annually. When a student registers online they agree that they are in receipt of the handbook.

Dr. Schmidt asked if there were any more questions or comments. No comments from the committee.

### **5365R1: Guidelines for Reciprocal Reporting of Criminal Offenses**

Dr. Schmidt briefly described the guidelines are required by law, and stated that we have an excellent working and close relationship with the Woodridge Police Department. They are proactive in working with us all the time. It is a very positive and is an extremely student centered partnership.

Officer Porras, was introduced and spoke about the working relationship between Woodridge School District 68 and the Woodridge Police Department. The lines of communication are always open between the district and the police department and no issue is too small. He stated that if there is an issue that cannot wait, call 911 first. If he is not available, he will follow up.

Dr. Schmidt asked if there were any more questions or comments. No comments from the committee.

### **5380: Bus Conduct**

Dr. Schmidt reviewed the policy stating we expect the same type of conduct we have in our schools on our buses. There is a heightened awareness, since the bus is a moving object. The buses are recorded as a proactive measure. Dr. Schmidt pointed out that there are cameras and audio on every bus. Just like in school, you can be suspended from the bus and lose that privilege for a discipline issue. You would have the same legal rights as if you were suspended from school.

Dr. Schmidt asked if there were any more questions or comments. No comments from the committee.

### **5420: Misconduct by Students with Disabilities**

Dr. Schmidt reminded us the Board Policy and School Code allows us to combine the PTA and Behavior Intervention Committees. Dr. Schmidt then turned it over to Dr. Anne Bowers, Director of Special Education, to discuss the required material.

Dr. Bowers talked about the changes made to our Administrative Procedure/Regulation under this policy that are aligned to the updated and recommended changes by ISBE. She then provided the procedures for behavioral interventions for students with disabilities explaining the duties of this committee:

1. Oversee the annual review of the use of restrictive intervention and an evaluation of progress toward less restrictive interventions;
2. Keeping a record of (1) the number of students with active Individual Education Plans (IEP's); (2) the number of students with behavioral plans as a component of their active IEP's; (3) the number of times each of the students required restrictive interventions and (4) the nature of staff development activities dealing with behavioral interventions.

Dr. Bowers referenced the five years of data (12/1/2021-12/1/2025) for Active IEP's for District 68.

1. December 1, 2025 Child Count by Disability
2. December 1, 2025 Child Count by Location (including EC and specialized programs)

Data presented for In-District Inclusion/ Resource Programming K-8 (excluding EC and specialized programs).

Data presented for Students with Behavior Intervention Plans in their IEP's and Use of Restrictive Interventions.

### **5420R1: Procedures for Behavior Interventions for Students w/Disabilities**

Dr. Bowers reviewed procedures for Behavioral Interventions for Students with Disabilities based on ISBE guidance, legal guidance, and the input of the district's RTO (restraint and time out) Oversight Team.

Dr. Bowers stated there was a change to the school code regarding reporting requirements.

Dr. Bowers stated that we do not use isolated time-outs in the district. We have staff trained in nonviolent crisis intervention. The district is proactive with behavior intervention plans.

Dr. Bowers asked if there were any questions or comments.

A parent asked if there was data on why the numbers increased.

Dr. Bowers replied that the number of students with disabilities has increased. There is less of a stigma, and our staff has more of an approach to want to analyze and understand, and come up with a plan instead of just accommodations or strategies.

No further comments.

#### **5440: Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment**

Bullying, intimidation and harassment diminish a student's ability to learn and a school's ability to educate. Preventing students from engaging in disruptive behaviors and providing all students equal access to a safe, non-hostile learning environment are important goals in Woodridge School District 68.

The District is very thorough and involved in this policy. Dr. Schmidt referenced the online policy and how the District has added great proactive measures. Our website has a link under the Parents tab talking about what we do as a district. It reviews the following interventions: SEL, Relationship Building, Guest Speakers, Student Leadership as well as Staff Professional Development.

Dr. Schmidt stated that there is a legal definition of bullying. He explained the difference between being mean and bullying. He explained this distinction is important because of the changes to a school district's obligation if there was a reported bullying complaint. Dr. Schmidt described the process the District follows if there is a report of bullying and the conduct (if it were found to be true would be considered bullying), including the 24 hour required notice to complainant and respondent. After a bullying complaint/report has been made and meets the definition, we investigate the behavior as described in the policy. Even if a behavior of misconduct is reported and does not meet the threshold of bullying or after the investigation does not meet the threshold, the administration can still and should address the misconduct in accordance with our Student Behavior policy (that we discussed earlier). Even if it does not qualify as bullying, we are still going to investigate under our code of conduct. We do not want mean behavior going on.

Dr. Schmidt asked the Jefferson students to let us know how they feel the district is addressing bullying. Did they notice a difference between elementary and middle school?

A student stated that they did not see a big difference in bullying from the elementary school to Jefferson Junior HS. Jefferson talks more about bullying and that it is not tolerated. They do not see it in the halls or hear about bullying at school.

A student stated that at the beginning of the school year, Jefferson had an assembly addressing behavior policies. They had a presentation on bullying and how it affects people and how bullying can ruin someone's life.

Mr. Warnke asked the students what the teachers do to make sure students stay connected to other students and feel safe in the classroom.

The students replied that if a teacher sees a student sitting alone, they might move tables around or change tables. In their home base, they do team-building activities to stay connected.

A parent commented on how the teachers care about the students. She was worried when her student first went to JJH, but was very impressed with Mr. Warnke and his focus on bullying. It was like a family at JJH, and that is what you want for your child.

Ms. Zawodny stated that the majority of the elementary schools do a monthly team building activity and

learn interpersonal skills across grade levels.

A teacher noted that not every district sets time aside for social and emotional learning. It proves Woodridge believes in SEL as a practice.

Mr. Warnke stated that communication is key to stopping bullying.

Dr. Schmidt noted that most bullying starts outside school through social media and text messages. It then carries over into the schools. He asked the principals if they think that is where a lot of the bullying starts. They stated a lot of dealing with Saturday nights, cell phone usage, and social media usage.

As spokespersons for your school, PTO, and community, we should rally around students staying off social media and phones. At the very least, monitor your students' usage.

Dr. Schmidt thanked everyone for their thoughts and comments.

### **5500: Administering Medicines to Students**

Dr. Schmidt stated no changes to the policy and the policy governs the administering or self-administering of medication on school grounds.

There is also a standard regulation, which reviews medical authorization. We do not administer medicine without the proper paperwork in place. We require a parent/physician note authorizing administration of prescribed medications.

Dr. Schmidt asked if there were any questions.

A student asked: if a student had Advil in their backpack, are they allowed to take it, or do they need to go to the office?

A teacher replied that they would get in trouble if they had it. It was also mentioned that our school nurses couldn't give Advil to students without parents' permission.

Dr. Schmidt thank everyone for their comments.

## **VI. Review of Woodridge School District 68 Parent Information Handbook and Calendar**

We are not going to go through the handbook as you receive it every year and we make changes as necessary.

Dr. Schmidt commented that parents and students are required to read The Handbook and check the box online that they have completed the task.

Dr. Schmidt asked the committee if they needed to review anything in the handbook before moving on to the calendar. No comments or questions from the committee.

The calendar is normally included for discussion and review.

This is a draft of the calendar for the 26-27 school year. We work with the teachers' association, the board, and administration to set the calendar for next year. We also look at what the Regional Office of Education recommends.

We are aligned with District 99, including Winter/Spring breaks, as that is what parents are concerned with.

Any questions or concerns based on the proposed calendar, as it will go to the Board of Education for review in the February meeting.

Dr. Schmidt stated that we cannot offer feedback on conferences in April until April of this year. The focus of the April conference is to look at the growth of the student from the beginning of the year till now. Also, look at what needs to be done before the next school year begins.

Parent stated that the shift in the April conference to discuss students' growth should be communicated to parents.

No other comments.

VII. Other

VIII. Adjournment

A motion was made by Marcy Clark and seconded by Kurt Kramer. Motion was carried and the meeting was adjourned at 5:04 pm.