



# Oak Park Elementary School District 97

970 Madison ▪ Oak Park ▪ Illinois ▪ 60302 ▪ ph: 708.524.3000 ▪ fax: 708.524.3019 ▪ www.op97.org

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**TO: Members, Board of Education  
Dr. Carol Kelley, Superintendent**

**FROM: District 97 Policy Review Team**

**RE: Policy Adoption**

**DATE: January 12, 2016**

The District 97 Board of Education conducted a first reading of the following policies during its meeting on December 15, 2015:

- Policy 2:20 (Powers and Duties of the Board of Education)
- Policy 2:150 (Committees)
- Policy 2:200 (Types of School Board Meetings)
- Policy 2:240 (Board Policy Development)
- Policy 4:170 (Safety)
- Policy 5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting)
- Policy 5:100 (Staff Development Program)
- Policy 6:15 (School Accountability)
- Policy 6:160 (English Language Learners)
- Policy 6:270 (Guidance and Counseling Program)
- Policy 6:315 (High School Credit for Students in Grade 7 or 8)
- Policy 6:320 (High School Credit for Proficiency)
- Policy 7:100 (Health, Eye, and Dental Examinations; Immunizations; and Exclusion of Students)
- Policy 7:130 (Student Rights and Responsibilities)
- Policy 7:140 (Search and Seizure)
- Policy 7:290 (Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention)
- Policy 7:300 (Extracurricular Athletics)
- Policy 7:305 (Student Athlete Concussions and Head Injuries)
- Policy 7:340 (Student Records)
- Policy 8:30 (Visitors to and Conduct on School Property)

Board members asked questions, offered comments and/or provided feedback about several of the policies. Below is an update on those policies.

- **Policy 2:20 (Powers and Duties of the Board of Education)** – As part of our review of 2:20, the team decided to find out if the powers and duties listed in the policy were taken directly from the law. Per the following footnote from the policy, while the law controls the content of the policy, the powers that are listed are not “exclusive.”

**State law controls this policy’s content. School board powers listed in the School Code are not exclusive, meaning that a board may exercise “all other powers not inconsistent with this Act that may be requisite or proper for the maintenance, operation, and development of any school or**

**schools under the jurisdiction of the board,” (105 ILCS 5/10-20). This policy’s intent is to list the major statutory powers and duties – not all of them. See also 105 ILCS 5/10-20.5 and 5/10-21.**

During its meeting on December 15, 2015, the board was asked if it wanted to add any of its other existing powers or duties to the policy. It elected not to update or alter the document at that time or in the days that followed. As a result, the team recommends that the policy remain unchanged.

- **Policy 2:150 (Committees)** – The Policy Reference Education Subscription Service (PRESS) is recommending that the phrase “and provides information and recommendations to the Board” be added to the descriptions for the Parent-Teacher Advisory Committee and Behavioral Interventions Committee. This change is meant to further emphasize that these committees “report to the board,” more specifically that one of their duties is to propose changes to policy.

The board asked if this proposed revision and their inclusion in the policy means that the committees are subject to the Open Meetings Act. We posed this question to the board attorney, who researched the issue and sent the following response:

**“Per the policy, the Parent Teacher Advisory Committee and the Behavioral Interventions Committee are identified as Standing Board Committees and, therefore, are subject to the requirements of the Open Meetings Act.”**

The team has shared this information with the district administrators who are charged with leading the work of these committees on behalf of the board. Those administrators will be responsible for ensuring that both groups fulfill the obligations that correspond with this legal requirement.

The team also believes that the board president should assign the responsibilities of the Behavioral Interventions Committee to the Parent-Teacher Advisory Committee, which he has the discretion to do in accordance with the policy.

The team recommends that the board adopt the changes to the policy as presented on December 15, 2015.

- **Policy 6:50 (Wellness)** – During the board meeting on December 15, 2015, the team recommended tabling the work on this policy until the district’s Wellness Council had a chance to discuss whether to incorporate the recent changes proposed by PRESS into our existing district-specific policy or transition to the PRESS version of the policy. The council is scheduled to meet on January 19, 2016, and plans to talk about both options at that time.

We will continue to keep the board updated on the status of the changes to this policy, and hope to present recommendations for review/discussion during one of the board meetings in February.

Attached are the policies that are being presented to the board tonight for approval. These policies include:

- Policy 2:150 (Committees)
- Policy 2:200 (Types of School Board Meetings)
- Policy 2:240 (Board Policy Development)
- Policy 4:170 (Safety)
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