

Parent-Teacher Advisory Committee on Discipline and
Behavioral Intervention Committee Minutes
February 19, 2025

I. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 3:48 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, Dr. Anne Bowers, Marcy Clark, Liz Epley, Megan Gaafar, Ana Gremillion, Eddie Hren, Erin Karpus, Kurt Kramer, Terri Kumiega, Samantha Loane, Jennifer Malone, Sofia Padilla, Officer Jody Porras, Dan Rack, Dr. William Schmidt, Jennifer Vieu, Stephanie Wade, Justin Warnke, Lena Wiese, Alisa Zawodny, Rachel Zieserl

Student Representative: Isaac Gonzalez, Anina Hren

III. Approval of 2024 Minutes

Kurt Kramer made the motion to approve the 2024 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 Policy. 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 and discuss and monitor the processes and procedures for using behavioral interventions.

We are required to meet once a year. The agenda and policies spell out what we must cover. We are charged with discussing, clarifying, asking questions or providing suggestions to our existing policies and procedures, and 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 24, 2025 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: Business; Safety

Dr. Schmidt talked about combining or deleting old, outdated safety policies. Now one main Safety policy aligned to PRESS. The one section added and updated from an old safety policy to this Safety policy was on AED information.

No questions or comments were given.

4230: Personnel; Maintaining Student Discipline

Dr. Schmidt talked about moving/renumbering this policy to fall under the Personnel policies vs. the Student policies, and then updating the policy title to more accurately describe the content of the policy. Nothing substantive was changed in the policy which 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. There were none.

5020: Students; Harassment of Students is Prohibited

Dr. Schmidt explained the difference between the Harassment policy and the Bullying policy, including the process followed if its 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. There were none.

5310: Search and Seizure

Dr. Schmidt stated 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 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 with an investigation resulting in a search are notified after the investigation.

Dr. Schmidt asked Mr. Warnke if they still conducted a canine drug search. Mr. Warnke replied that they do. Mr Warnke also stated that they have never found any drugs during the drills other than during staged events by police with 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. No 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. Mr. Warnke stated it is not uncommon for police officers to walk the building to build a positive relationship with the students.

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

5380: Students; 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 as the bus is moving. 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: Behavior Interventions for Students with Disabilities

Dr. Schmidt reminded us the Board Policy and School Code allows us to combine the PTA and Behavior Intervention Committees and review required policies and information. 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 (12/1/2020-12/1/2024) for Active IEP's for District 68.

1. December 1, 2024 Child Count by Disability
2. December 1, 2024 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.

Dr. Bowers stated that we do not use isolated time out in the district. We have staff trained in nonviolent crisis intervention. The district is proactive with behavior intervention plans and the district has lowered the number of restricted behavior interventions.

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

5420R1: Students; Procedures for Behavior Interventions for Students w/Disabilities

Dr. Bowers reviewed the proposed revisions to 5420R: 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.

5440: Students; Preventing 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: Champs, SEL, Kagan and GRIT program as well as Woodridge 68 collaborates with the Woodridge Police Department and cyber-bullying parent presentations. The school district uses Gaggle, a recognition program that alerts administration if there is

potentially harmful communication over the internet. There is also a tip line.

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 bullying were alleged to have occurred. 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 doesn't meet the threshold of bullying or after the investigation doesn't meet the threshold, the administration can still and should address the misconduct in accordance with our Student Behavior policy (that we discussed earlier). Dr. Schmidt also described the new tracking and reporting requirements by the State. Either way 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 if there were any questions, concerns, procedures or further preventative questions from the student end, parents or committee that we needed to look at.

One parent asked if the information that is reported to the State, and then reported by the State would not use student identifiable information.

Dr. Schmidt reported that the information being collected and reported are general and categorical, not specific with details or names.

A teacher stated she has been teaching 18 years in the district and has seen a large decrease in bullying. Social and emotional learning and other components has helped students get along.

A teacher stated team building has helped with students respecting one another.

A student stated that inside school you see the nice side of classmates. If bullying does occur, Mr. Warnke and Ms. Zawodny are very helpful in addressing the issue.

A parent stated that she is very happy with District 68 and how it is refreshing the positive way the district talks about and prevents bullying. Her student feels more confident in school. They came from a district where they did not address bullying the way District 68 does.

It was noted that the vast majority of bullying happens outside of school on social media.

A teacher noted that she attended a conference and not ever district sets time aside for social and emotional learning. She is proud to be in a district that does.

Dr. Schmidt thanked everyone for their comments.

5500: Students; 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. No comments from the committee.

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 25-26 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.

A parent asked why is the parent teacher conferences in April.

Dr. Schmidt replied there was not much time in-between the November and February conferences due to winter break and Monday holidays. April conferences you could focus on the growth of the student. You can discuss what next school year will look like. The district is looking to see if April parent teacher conferences is better so you will be able to see the growth of your student.

A teacher stated is a student is struggling they will contact you and not wait until conference time to discuss their concerns.

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 4:43 pm.