

DRAFT
Minutes
CITIZEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC) MEETING
Thursday, November 15, 2007
7:00 – 8:00 PM

I. Call to order 7:04

Members Present: Marilyn Fedor, Ann Ferguson, Claudia Manley, David May, Kevin Monaghan, John Straus, Tamara Vergara, Kevin Wagner, and Katherine Howard

Members Absent: Maarne Insaadoo, Janet Overton

Others in attendance: Assistant Superintendent Dr. Bob Carlo, Ray Conniff

II. Welcome and Announcements

a. Assistant Superintendent's comments

Dr. Carlo reviewed the purpose of the Committee, and the process by which the meeting agenda is set. The CAC is an advisory committee to act at the direction of the District 61 School Board.

b. Committee introductions

III. Minutes of October 18, 2007 meeting were approved unanimously

IV. Old Business

a. CAC: Structure of Committee

The following were appointed by unanimous vote of the Committee:

Marilyn Fedor – Chairperson

Claudia Manley – Vice Chairperson

John Straus – Secretary

b. Feedback on Review Student Discipline Policy 7:190

Members discussed various elements of the Student Discipline Policy (SDP). The following concerns were raised by Claudia Manley and Tamara Vergara based on their experience as attorneys:

Need for preface document that lists definitions. Both stated that numerous undefined terms were presented. An example was the use of the word "days". Suit could be brought by an affected family if a child was suspended for 10 "days". The School District may interpret "days" to mean school days while an agitated family may interpret "days" to mean calendar days.

Need for a definition of the jurisdiction of the School District and / or SDP. For example, is the policy in effect for behavior only on school grounds, or should it include the school bus or other related areas?

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According to the SDP, intent needs to be proven in cases of students with contraband. Intent may be difficult to prove, and is a subjective area that could cause legal exposure for the School District.

There appears to be an inconsistent treatment of legal terminology throughout the document. For example, in some cases “such as” was changed to be “including but not limited to”. In other cases, “such as” was not changed at all.

Tamara made a recommendation that the SDP be submitted to the School District's legal counsel for formal review and / or rewriting.

Discussion of the CAC addressed each of the points presented by Claudia and Tamara. During this discussion, it was pointed out that the District 61 SDP was taken from a document written and recommended by the Illinois School Board Association (ISBA); and that the District is under the assumption that the terms of the document have been reviewed by the ISBA's legal counsel. Members of the CAC discussed the adequacy of this assumption and the cost / benefit of having the District's legal counsel perform an independent legal review of the SDP.

The committee then directed its discussion away from the legal adequacy of the document, and focused on reviewing the document as a typical School District 61 parent would.

A motion was made to:

1. Recommend that the policy be accepted as written,
2. Accept the legal adequacy of the document based on the understanding that it was presented by the ISBA as being such,
3. Communicate to the School Board our belief that the SDP presents a fair policy that is easily understood by a typical School District 61 parent.

The motion passed by a vote of 7 to 2

Both Claudia and Tamara once again expressed concerns over the document

- c. A motion was made and passed unanimously requesting that the School Board appoint Ray Conniff to the CAC if an open position is identified. Dr. Carlo will call the absent members and ask if they are still interested in

Minutes submitted to CAC, to review, for Approval on February 28, 2008.

Prepared by Mr. John Straus, Secretary Citizens' Advisory Committee.

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participating. Bob will then communicate his findings about open positions to the School Board prior to their addressing this motion.

V. Next meeting will be Thursday, February 28th at 7 pm.

VI. Adjournment at 8:05

Minutes submitted to CAC, to review, for Approval on February 28, 2008.
Prepared by John Straus, Secretary Citizen's Advisory Committee.

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