

Community Meeting #1

2010-2011 Student Code of Conduct Review Committee

January 7, 2010

Feedback from the group

Code of Conduct Review Committee

- Consider adjustments to the meeting schedule: Adjust times to accommodate parents? Add a Saturday? Consider ConferenceCall.com?
- Provide Child Care at meetings? – Consider High School students looking for community service hours
- Define Student Focus Groups – who is part of this (Answer: Middle and high schools students, including students in the alternative placement programs. District also undertaking larger-scale student focus group project in late January)
- We should be using technology to gather feedback
- The committee should explore the information in other district codes
- Can we talk with other districts about how they do their code and why they are different?
- Keep watch on the development of the State Code
- Could a member of the committee volunteer to monitor a blog on the Student Code of Conduct Committee work?
- Break down Discipline Data like suspensions and alternative placements by offense
- Report expulsions by school

Student Code of Conduct Document

- Abolish Zero Tolerance
- Establish a definition of Zero Tolerance since it does not appear in our code
- Please email definitions of Zero Tolerance to Wendy so that we can come up with one that we can agree on.
- Reconsider amendment for Level Three offenses committed by students in Kindergarten and first grade. Should we expel a Kindergarten student?
- Code is punitive and does not have enough intervention
- Consider Intent???
- There must be consistency in the process if we consider Intent.
 - Training of Administrators
 - Trust and Support for Administrators making decisions at the building level
 - Fear of Litigation
 - Concerns around consistent Implementation
- We should review each page of the code to make sure we address student rights
- Need to develop a list of what is non negotiable in the code based on State regulations – reporting and consequences
- Code lacks Special Education Manifestation Determination Information
- Understand definitions in glossary
- Consider a Conduct Code for all persons associated with the district and then a separate list of rights and responsibilities for students
- We need an Adult Code of Conduct
- Issues around Safety and Security do the consequences fit the infractions?

Issues Related to School Discipline Process

- Alternative Placement Process – who is on the alternative placement committee and what is the hearing process? How do we recruit committee members?
- Hearing Officers for expulsions should be selected carefully and should rotate and be independent
- Parents should always be notified before students are asked to give statements etc.
- Provide parent support for hearings – parents do not always understand what is going on with placement
- What are the requirements for hearing packets and are we consistent?
- How do we handle AG's reports and is it legal?

Communication and School Climate

- Need to raise awareness of parents / teachers/ students of what is really in the code and the need to review it
- Need Parent workshops on Student Code of Conduct to gather input, develop training, generate engagement
- Need more cultural awareness. Threats are not the same to all
- Consider deterrents – metal detectors, wands, cameras etc. Random screening like at special events
- When do we consider the rights of the non violators of the code?
- In School Suspension is not punishment
- Teachers need to help kids that act out -- not send them out.
- Not fair to be too hard on Administrators – they are trying to keep their schools safe
- Consider modifying behavior--not just punishment
- Have we done any survey of what students are dealing with outside of school? (Needs of Poverty by Ruby Slocum and Robert Payne)
- School Rules differ by school as does training

Needed Resources

- Need additional resources and staffing in buildings and to monitor input.
- Need additional student services in buildings
- Social, Mental health, parent training, interventions
- More paraprofessionals and smaller classrooms and budget resources – need to talk with Dover
- School versus state provided services
- Interventionists and counselors are needed in all buildings especially in high poverty schools.
- Consider Saturday School and extended day

Student Comments

- Teachers do not seem engaged
- Some teachers are not qualified
- Class sizes are too big
- Staff does not enforce no smoking rules
- A lot of students get high in school
- Students do not have respect for the school environment
- Some students do not feel safe after incidents of fire setting and gun coming into school
- Smoking detection needs to be installed in the bathrooms
- No adequate review of the code in school
- Teachers and staff don't seem to be interested in enforcing the rules.
- Many students do not seem phased by the consequences anyway
- Some teachers don't seem interested in improving students
- Do not think that we could actually use metal detectors efficiently