

Policy Committee

Minutes

November 17, 2015

6:00 PM @ SAU Offices

Members	Rich Cahoon - Chair, Janine Lesser, Dick Dunning, Kimberly Saunders Attendees: Dick Dunning, Janine Lesser, Rich Cahoon, Guests: Brian Pickering, Steve Bartsch, Emily Daniels, Stephan Morrissey	
I.	Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM by Rich Cahoon Approval of November 3, 2015 Minutes – Minutes approved at end of meeting.	
II.	<u>New Business:</u> 1. IKF: Graduation Requirements (I have also included policy IMBC, Alternative Credit Options). Brian spoke to this policy as the high school is looking at this policy to ensure that their requirements remain current. They are looking at a service learning component and virtual learning, which they like for its' flexibility. They presently have any specific recommendation for the 2020 year. Dick Dunning asked how many hours are required for community service for a ½ credit. They do not have that language. How many hours for a ½ credit, 18 weeks @ 80 minutes a day, at 5 days a week. Brian feels there should be a civic and learning piece, they was to settle on the number of hours and implement this within the next several years (current freshman will have this option available in their junior year). It may be easier to say “these are the skills we want them to develop.” The high school Leadership team would like time to work these out (logistics, hours, etc.). These two policies need to come back each year. If they do want to change this, Rich would like to ensure this goes to the Education Committee first, then Policy. Strategic Plan – 3 years. Culminating Senior Project, would be a way to assess some skills that are outside the content. Janine spoke that sometimes policies come to us when they should be going to the Education Committee, or another subcommittee; we do not decide the implementation of the policy. Janine asked where does it start (change graduation requirements, for example)? We need to be consistent. Kimberly will bring the process to the next policy meeting -- ACTION. Let's hammer out the work flow, and identify the process. It should not start in Policy. 2. The Substance Abuse Task Force discussion. This agenda item was moved to the beginning of the agenda. Emily Daniels distributed the current policy. Steve Bartsch spoke of the	

inception of the task force last year. One of the subcommittees was tasked to look at the substance abuse policy, about 9 years ago. This made the group realize it needed to be readdressed. Steve contacted Kimberly for permission to look at this policy. The timeline: August created subcommittee. September, looked at area high school policies. October, the task force held two focus groups with staff and students. We now hope to work with the Policy Committee to draft a revision.

Questions to the Committee, create a draft and bring back to the committee on or around January 2016. Rich asked about the 4th bulleted item of the policy, looking for the intent of the sentence. Kimberly thought the big push was to create intervention, rather than strict discipline. Steve feels our policy is progressive, even though it is 9 years old. The students' group spoke a lot about "reasonable suspicion", and what it means? Dick asked what it is. Steve indicated it's not probable cause. Steve will talk to the student explaining why they ask and what it means. It's not to get rid of, it's there to help!

In regards to staff, we try to support them, not remove them. Dick spoke of several experiences he had. According to our current policy, someone selling heroine would receive a 5 to 10 day suspension. Do we always offer help? Should we break out the policy by the severity of the drug/offense?

Rich would like to have Dean Eggert (Legal Counsel) provide a definition of "reasonable suspicion". Kimberly will contact him.

Dick spoke to the need for a "legal school definition". Do we want a third tier, based on the drug classification/danger? Emily indicated that in December, they will have a draft available. Dick asked if there is presently a tier of the classification of drugs. Yes and No. It is more about the time it takes to develop an addiction. Brian would like to see the language around that. The task force will look at what is going on in the State, and see how it is being addressed. There's using and then dealing. Are they treated differently, as well consideration of the danger level of the drug? Emily says they aren't that separate anymore, as the heavy users are dealing to support their habit. We always involve the police when narcotic distribution is involved. However, in the end, the school policy will apply. We can ask questions that the police cannot. We can do internal investigations, but once we turn it over to the authorities, we cannot get involved.

What is the due process, what does the investigation look like...quantity (Steve M)? The Task force meets on the 1st Thursday of each month.

Mr. Bartsch spoke about students who self-report on other friends (lesser ramification of discipline). We have an issue where kids run, because they don't want to get in trouble, so they leave a friend/peer. We do have a range of discipline depending on the circumstances.

Steve M is concerned about the differentiation between the lower end of a crime and a higher end. Rich asked about ramifications for athletes. Do we have control or is it an NHIAA requirement? We have control. What message are we sending to the rest of the students when we allow a student to participate in sports? This is a balancing act. It's a concern. However, as an athlete, they agree to live by the rules of the team/school. It's a concern about leaving students/peers.

	<p>Electronic smoking devices: the task force will rework this, as it can be included under the worst drugs. Using these VAPS, the drugs are so hard to detect, and there are so many different types of devices that are used. Policy Committee agrees that the task force should continue with their work.</p> <p>Meeting adjourned at 6:56 by Dick Dunning, second by Janine.</p>	
IV.	<p>Future Agenda Items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy on Parents Observing Teachers • Scholarship policy 	
V.	<p>Next Meeting: December 1, 2015 @ SAU Offices</p>	