

River Ridge School District

RIVER RIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
POLICY/CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, July 6, 2016

- I. **Call To Order** - The meeting was called to order by Kerri Schier at 5:15 pm in the Superintendent's Office/Board Room.
- II. **Roll Call** - Board Committee members Jason Cathman, Emilie Mumm, and Kerri Schier were present. Also present were Superintendent Dr. Jeff Athey, Business Manager Kevin Kocer, and members of the public.
- III. **The Pledge of Allegiance** - The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- IV. **Statement of Notice** - Kerri Schier stated that public notice of this meeting was provided on June 24, 2016 at 12:00 pm. The motion to approve this action was made by Jason Cathman and seconded by Emilie Mumm. The motion carried on a voice vote.
- V. **Appearances**
No one from the public who were present had signed up to speak.
- VI. **New Business**
 - A. 441.1 Search Policy and 445.3 Student Suspensions/Expulsions Policy were placed on the agenda at the request of a board member. Policy 441.1 has not been revised since April 14, 1999. Policy 445.3 has not been revised since July 1, 1995. The question was asked, "To what extent does the Board wish to know or weigh in how day-to-day behavioral matters are dealt with by administration; or is the Board more interested in updating the policies so that they provide administration with clearer direction in which (if any) matters the board may feel it should be apprised of." Whenever there is a matter of firearms brought onto school grounds or explosive devices on school premises, boards of education typically are involved in expulsion hearings. These are automatics based on state statutes. However, the current 441.1 and 445.3 policies say nothing about a board's involvement in student behavioral matters (be it a matter of a student in possession of drugs at school, involved in a fight with another student, calling a teacher a profane name/making a verbal threat towards another, involved in repetitive behavior, etc.). Kerri Schier said she expects administration to deal with the day-to-day disciplining matters. She didn't feel it was the board's role to be micro-managers of day-to-day operations. She did say policy should be clear enough to provide administration with parameters how to deal with such matters. The Committee asked Dr. Athey if sample policies from WASB on "searches" and "suspensions/expulsions" could be sent to them when the minutes of the meeting are sent out. Likewise, it was asked if a copy of the "Step System" could be sent to them as well. The Step System is a disciplining format that has been used at the secondary level in dealing with students who are sent to administration to deal with. The Step System is referenced in the high school student handbook. Dr. Athey said that this will be mailed to the Committee members as well. The task between now and August 4th will be to look at the current policies, the WASB sample policies, and the Step System and bring back suggestions how the "search" and "suspension/expulsion" policy can be improved.

- B. Academic Standards Notification for 2016-2017 - Dr. Athey called attention to the insert in the Committee's packet concerning academic standards notification for 2016-17. At the Board's first regular meeting of the 2016-17 school year, they are to approve the district's academic standards. notification school districts are required to provide to school district patrons. Policy and Curriculum Committee Chair Kerri Schier will bring the action request to the full board on July 21, 2016.
- C. Co-Curricular Code Recommendation - A.D. Wade Winkers and High School Principal Clay Koenig have revised the co-curricular code and are requesting that the revised code be brought to the Board on July 21, 2016 for final approval (waiving a first reading by the board) so that the information may be distributed to student-athletes and their parents at the Monday, August 1, 2016 fall sports meeting. Policy and Curriculum Committee Chair Kerri Schier will bring the action request to the full board on July 21, 2016.

VII. Old Business

- A. Long-Range Plan – Co-/Extracurricular Activities - The Committee spent the remainder of their meeting time examining and discussing the recommendations that had been brought forward by the Co-/Extracurricular Task Force Committee. The Committee liked the recommendation of developing a survey in asking students what they would like to see offered for middle school and high school sports activities (e.g., Cross Country, Golf, Soccer, etc.), non-sport activities (e.g., Book Club, Chess Club, Mathletes), and after school programs (e.g., trapshooting, school play, musical). Dr. Athey said he would inquire if any other schools in our area have developed/administered such a survey (and, if not, begin developing one). The Committee would like to see two surveys administered – one to high school students (grades 9-12) and one to middle school students (grades 7 & 8). There have been a few parents/educators who have asked if there's any possibility of starting up Cross Country. The Committee would like to find out what's possible – if not for 2016-17, then for 2017-18. Perhaps we could check with other principals/A.D.'s and WIAA to see what may be possible – even if we were to engage in a co-op with another school (as we already do in wrestling and softball).

VIII. Member Suggestions and Recommendations for Future Items

The Committee reminded the Superintendent that they would like to receive sample copies of WASB policies dealing with "searches" and "suspensions/expulsions" and a copy of the "Steps System" prior to the next meeting. They would like these two policies to be on the agenda for the next meeting.

IX. Next Meeting

The Committee had a conflict with the August 3, 2016 date. Instead, it was decided they would meet again at 5:15 pm on Thursday, August 4, 2016.

X. Adjournment

Jason Cathman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Emilie Mumm seconded. The meeting adjourned at 5:55 pm.