

**Mason Public Schools
Board of Education
Policy and Curriculum Committee Meeting
January 25, 2016**

A Policy and Curriculum Committee meeting of the Mason Board of Education was held at the Harvey Education Center on Monday, January 25, 2016. The meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m.

Present: Laura Cheney, Julie Rogers, and Tom Curtis

Also Present: Ron Drzewicki, Superintendent; Matt Stuard, Director of Curriculum; Greg Lattig, Athletic Director; Ted Berryhill, Middle School Assistant Principal; Nick Toodzio, High School Assistant Principal; Jennifer Sauser

Gifts/Bequests Donor Contribution – Capital Improvements

The committee reviewed the donation for athletic capital improvements. The donation was received by an anonymous donor. The donation is for \$25,000 and can be used for any athletic capital improvement projects the District decides to target. The committee discussed potential opportunities in the District for athletic capital improvements. The committee recommends acceptance of the donation to the full Board for approval.

Cell Phones

High School

Mr. Toodzio was in attendance to provide an update about the cell phone policy. Mr. Toodzio described a change in culture at the school. The policy was strictly enforced initially, and has been adapted to accommodate use before and after school, during lunch, and between classes. Cell phones are also authorized for use in the classroom when it coincides with a learning activity. The high school is working towards a balanced approach to the policy that allows for necessary communication without disrupting the school environment. Mr. Toodzio discussed the use of cell phones in bullying. The committee discussed the impact of cell phone use on tardies, bullying, and cheating.

Middle School

Mr. Berryhill was in attendance to provide an update about the cell phone policy. The policy at the middle school is very similar to the high school. Mr. Berryhill reviewed some data about referrals for problem behavior, pointing out the small number of technology violations relative to overall problem behaviors. There are minor anecdotal cases of cell phone misuse at the middle school.

Bullying Prevention Update

Middle School

Mr. Berryhill updated the committee on anti-bullying interventions, including the dog bone punch card, positive behavior system, and an upcoming presentation by Mason State Police

trooper Marco Jones. Mr. Berryhill described the goals of the interventions for the coming school year. The committee discussed parental engagement and behavior change approaches.

High School

Mr. Toodzio updated the committee on anti-bullying interventions, including the tip-line and student advisory activities. The committee discussed the real vs. perceived prevalence of bullying. The committee discussed the need for teaching conflict resolution and other life skills in the classroom.

Elementary Schools

Mr. Stuard provided an update to the committee on anti-bullying interventions, including the use of the social-emotional component of the curriculum in the elementary schools. All elementary schools have a positive behavior intervention program, reward programs, peer programs, and presentations.

Professional Learning Communities

Mr. Drzewicki reviewed the purpose of Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) and described its ability to align curriculum and strengthen working relationships within the district. The establishment of PLCs is a priority in the district's Strategic Plan.

The administration recommends a structured time to allow for teacher and department collaboration to improve instruction in a PLC structure. The committee discussed potential changes in the calendar to introduce opportunities for collaboration and curriculum development, including late start or early release.

Review of Policy #3200

The committee discussed a revision to policy #3200. The committee recommended the policy to the school board for first reading.

Set Preliminary Agenda for Next Meeting

The committee discussed the timetable for engaging NEOLA, Inc.

Adjournment

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 22, 2016 at 4:00 p.m.