

MONTROSE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

**POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES**

MEETING DATE AUGUST 18, 2011 7 P.M.

Mrs. Kristen Follert
Chairperson, Policy Committee

Mr. Michael F. Ognosky
Superintendent of Schools

August 18, 2011 Policy Committee Meeting began at 7 P.M. in the Administrative Offices.

Board Members present included Kristen Follert and Gloria Smith

Administrators present included Mike Ognosky

The Policy Committee conducted the following business:

OLD BUSINESS:

- There were no items of "Old Business" discussed at tonight's meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: The following revised policy recommendations were received recently from the PSBA Policy News Network and recommended for consideration:

- **Policy 113 (Programs/Special Education):** This policy has been revised to add a definition for parent/guardian, to change language on confidentiality based on the addition of new Policy 113.4 and in order to update language on recording of messages. Based on the information received from PSBA, it is recommended by the Policy Committee that revised Policy 113 should be presented for a first reading consideration at the September 12, 2011 Board meeting.
- **Policy 113.1 (Programs/Discipline of Students with Disabilities):** A revision was made to the definition of Interim Alternative Educational Settings to clarify that removal of a student with a disability to an interim educational setting by school personnel of up to 45 days for certain infractions does not constitute a change in placement for the student with a disability. Language was also added to reflect the changes in the School Code regarding relations with law enforcement agencies and reports to the Office of Safe Schools. Based on the information received from PSBA, it is recommended by the Policy Committee that revised Policy 113.1 should be presented for a first reading consideration at the September 12, 2011 Board meeting.
- **Policy 113.3 (Screening and Evaluations for Students with Disabilities):** The language under Appropriate Evaluations addressing an evaluator's report to the school entity was revised based on recommendations from the State Task Force on the Right To Education. The State Task Force requested clarification of the language to ensure it reflects the provision that the placement decisions and recommendations should occur at the IEP meeting and include the parent/guardian. The language was revised to more clearly communicate the need for concrete recommendations from evaluators that will specifically assist the IEP team in determining the best placement in the least restrictive environment for the student. Based on the information received from PSBA, it is recommended by the Policy Committee that revised Policy 113.3 should be presented for a first reading consideration at the September 12, 2011 Board meeting.
- **Policy 718 (Service Animals in Schools):** In a correction to the final regulations implementing Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, issued on March 11, 2011, the Department of Justice indicated that a service animal's handler "is not necessarily the individual with a disability". In response to this clarification, Policy 718 was revised to refer to "individual" rather than "handler". Based on the information received from PSBA, it is recommended by the Policy Committee that revised Policy 718 should be presented for a first reading consideration at the September 12, 2011 Board meeting.

The following new policy has been recommended by PSBA for inclusion in the Policy Manual:

- **Policy 113.4 (Confidentiality of Special Education Student Information):** This policy was developed in response to requests from school districts for a policy specifically addressing confidentiality of special education student information. The policy reflects requirements of both the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) as they pertain to special education student information. The policy includes language on maintaining a system of safeguards to ensure confidentiality; definitions; parental access rights; fees; maintaining a record of access; parental requests for amendments of educational records; records hearing procedures and the actions taken following a hearing; storage; retention and destruction of information; disclosure to third parties; and, staff training. Based on the information received from PSBA, it is recommended by the Policy Committee that Policy 113.4 should be presented as a first reading consideration at the September 12, 2011 Board meeting.

V. OPEN FORUM

No items were discussed during the Open Forum.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Mike Ognosky