

MONTROSE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
MEETING DATE SEPTEMBER 23, 2009 7:00 P.M.

Mrs. Gloria Smith
Chairperson, Policy Committee

Mr. Michael F. Ognosky
Superintendent of Schools

September 23, 2009 Policy Committee Meeting began at 7:00 P. M. in the District Administrative Offices.

Board Members present included Gloria Smith and Chris Caterson

Administrators present included Mike Ognosky

Pubic present included Bill Host

The Policy Committee conducted the following business:

OLD BUSINESS:

- There were no Old Business items at today's meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Policy 237 (Electronic Devices):** PSBA has provided the District with an update to the current Policy 237 (Electronic Devices). It is the feeling of PSBA that with the suggested changes in wording the Policy will be a bit more flexible and withstand the test of time. The policy now addresses both current and future technologies by developing a broader definition for electronic devices. The policy also addressed student privacy issues by prohibiting use of electronic devices in areas such as locker rooms, bathrooms, health suites and other changing areas. A significant addition to the policy is the section on prohibited electronic images and photographs. Due to the lack of state and federal guidance on this issue, school entities are struggling with how to address this type of conduct. Based on the recommendation from PSBA, the board members present felt that Policy 237 should be presented for a first reading consideration at the October Board meeting.
- **Policy 609 (investment of District Funds):** The changes recommended by PSBA for Policy 609 (Investment of District Funds) focus on the collateralization of bank deposits exceeding FDIC limits. With the rapid changes in the financial markets during the second half of 2008, some weaknesses related to collateralization accounts were disclosed. The policy has been revised to include safeguards to minimize risk of district investments that use collateralization. Based on the recommendation from PSBA, the board members present felt that Policy 609 should be presented for a first reading consideration at the October Board meeting.
- **Policy 718 (Service Animals in School):** A newly developed policy governing service animals in schools has been developed by PSBA. Adopting a Board policy on this issue is not mandated, but is a PSBA recommendation. The U. S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR) is responsible for the oversight of Section 504's and has provided guidance for the use of service animals in public schools. According to OCR, "if not allowing a student to bring a service dog into the classroom would effectively deny the student the opportunity, or an equal opportunity, to participate in or benefit from the educational program, the recipient school would be in violation of Section 504." The also allows school districts to evaluate the educational need when use of a service animal is requested. The right to use a service animal in school districts and facilities on school property is subject to limitations established in the proposed Board Policy. A service animal that initially is permitted in school could later have this permission revoked if the animal's behavior causes problems, under the conditions set forth in the proposed policy. Based on the recommendation from PSBA, the board members present felt that Policy 718 should be presented for a first reading consideration at the October Board meeting.

- **Policy 815 (Acceptable Use of Internet):** As was the case in Policy 237, PSBA is recommending a change in language that allows for future flexibility in the wording of the policy as it applies to electronic devices and their uses. The single change is to the wording in Section 4, Prohibitions, subsection 8, and revises the policy to read “Access to materials, images or photographs that are obscene, pornographic, lewd, or otherwise illegal.” Based on the recommendation from PSBA, the board members present felt that Policy 815 should be presented for a first reading consideration at the October Board meeting.

V. OPEN FORUM

No items were discussed during the Open Forum.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Mike Ognosky