

**Discipline Equity/Advisory Task Force Meeting
February 27, 2014**

Present:

Katie Ahsell, Jefferson
Bryan Yacko, Central
Davina Stewart, Jefferson
Orlando Thomas, Chair, Mellon

Stephanie Hayek, CECC
Michelle Anderson, Edison
Jeanne Smith, Recorder, Mellon

Attendance and Task Force Input

Orlando emphasized the importance of consistent attendance at task force meetings and urged members to attend or send someone in their place if necessary. He explained that when different task force members attend one meeting and not another, time cannot be spent bringing those who were absent up to speed on what decisions were made at a previous meeting because revisions to the Code must be finalized according to a predetermined timeline. He also explained that the decisions that are made by the task force are better accepted at the campus level when task force members have been present during the decision-making process and communicate task force discussions to their colleagues at the campus level.

Code of Conduct Revisions

The group reviewed the latest changes that were suggested to pp. 1-7 and approved the mock-up draft of those pages.

Revisions to pp. 8-17 were recommended by task force members (see attached Summary of Changes).

Cheating

Earlier in the year, an assistant principal asked that the topic of “cheating” be discussed with this task force to determine whether it is a violation that should be added to the Code of Conduct. Presently cheating and plagiarism are covered in each campus’ handbook and the most common consequence is to give zero credit for any assignment that involved cheating/plagiarism. One school did not have “cheating” covered in its school handbook, which is how this question came to light this year. The group discussed this topic and determined that cheating/ plagiarism should continue to be covered via the schools’ handbooks. It was suggested that the consequences be consistent from teacher to teacher and school to school, by level (elementary, middle, high). This recommendation should be shared with principals, possibly via a K-12 Principals Meeting. (Cheating was also deleted from the list of Level 1 violations at the elementary level (p. 8 of the 2013-14 Code of Conduct).

45-Day Placements for Elementary Students

The group asked what the status of this initiative was. Orlando reported that 45-day placements are still a topic of discussion at the Central Office Executive Team level. The current thinking is that if such placements were to become an option in the future, it would mostly likely be made available only for fourth and/or fifth graders. Bryan Yacko asked if it such placements would be

linked to specific violations. Orlando said they would not be specific to any particular violations but would be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Homework

Orlando asked the group to review pp.18-35 (secondary section) of the Code and be prepared to discuss any proposed changes at the meeting on March 13.

Next meeting: March 13, 2014, Mellon North Conference Room

:jes