

Discipline Equity/Advisory Committee
October 12, 2017

Present:

Edie Adams, FIC	Bruce Brown, Board of Ed.	Rick Carr, FIC
Katharine Fettig, Central	Jesse Guzman, Jefferson	Stephanie Hayek, CECC
Jennifer Hindes, Centennial	Cindy Lockett, Mellon	Kathy Shannon, Board of Ed.
Lindsey Trout, ACTIONS	Bryan Yacko, Central	Orlando Thomas, Chair, Mellon
Jeanne Smith, Recorder, Mellon		

Celebrations

Kathy Shannon shared a positive vignette regarding her daughter learning to advocate for others at her school.

Jennifer Hinds reported that the Restorative Justice initiative at Centennial is gaining momentum although different staff members are at different places on the continuum.

Orlando commended the Restore staff and Lindsey Trout on their efforts to provide Tier 3 supports to students assigned there this week.

Meeting Norms

The group revisited the following norm: “If committee cannot reach consensus, table issue until a later time.” It was discussed that if “consensus” is construed as everyone being in agreement, some decisions may never come to fruition. After some discussion, this norm was changed to: “Make final decisions by majority vote.”

Substance Abuse Policy/Consequences for Delivery

Changes that were made to this policy effective this year were reviewed. Those changes provided for drug counseling/reduction of suspension duration for second and third violations of use/possession/under the influence as well as clarification of the definition of delivery. Orlando explained that effective 2016-17, SB 100 tenets incorporated into the Code resulted in the elimination of zero tolerance consequences. As a result, the consequences for delivery now state:

“Any student who delivers, receives delivery of, or attempts to deliver or receive delivery of any prohibited substances listed above while in school, on school grounds, or at any school-sponsored activity will be subject to administrative review to determine disciplinary consequences up to an out-of-school suspension for ten school days and suspension from all school activities for up to 90 calendar days. There will be administrative review to determine whether to recommend expulsion from school for any offense involving delivery or attempted delivery, selling, or receipt of delivery or any prohibited substance listed above. In cases of delivery or attempted delivery, selling, or receipt of delivery, all parties will be disciplined.”

Orlando explained that in most cases of delivery, after administrative review, a recommendation for expulsion is made. He asked committee members if they thought there should be tiered consequences in cases of delivery as there are with cases of use/possession/under the influence. After discussing the pros and cons of having tiered consequences, the group voted 10-1 in favor of keeping the consequences for delivery as is.

It was noted that Jennifer Smith, an attorney from the District’s Chicago legal firm, reported that all the approximately 100 school districts with which she works consider delivery of drugs of any kind an

expellable offense. She reported that delivery of drugs is considered one of the “Big 3” offenses, the other two being weapons and physical confrontations with/battery of staff. A couple of committee members stated they were curious if any school districts don’t expel for drug delivery. Orlando stated he would research this possibility and report back to the committee. Cindy Lockett indicated Oregon, Washington, and Colorado school districts might have more lenient policies for delivery since those states have legalized marijuana.

Next meeting: November 16, 2017, 4:00 p.m., Mellon North Conference Room.

:jes