

Discipline Equity/Advisory Committee
November 19, 2015

Present:

Katie Ahsell, ACTIONS
Ann Cochrane, Carrie Busey/CFT
Gwenetta Posey, Dr. Howard
Joel Wright, Jefferson
Orlando Thomas, Mellon, Chair

Kendra Bonam, Centennial
Suzanne Meislahn, FIC
Ben Trupin, Mellon
Joe Williams, Central
Jeanne Smith, Mellon, Recorder

Inclusion of Behavior Forms in Code of Conduct

The committee revisited the idea of including in the 2016-17 Code of Conduct the behavior plan document developed by ACTIONS. After some discussion, it was decided that it would not be included in the Code.

Question of Whether to Eliminate Violations #6 (Disobedience) and #7 (Disruptive Behavior) from Code of Conduct in Light of Senate Bill 100

Since these two violations are probably the two most subjective violations in the Code, the possibility of eliminating them was discussed in light of the goals of Senate Bill 100. Joe Williams brought a blurb from a recent suspension letter that described in detail an incident involving severe disobedience. The student had previously been suspended for disobedience and verbal abuse to staff. Joe explained that sometimes administrators spend an inordinate amount of time following students through the school because they refuse simple direction from adults. Joe also reported that consistency of discipline is a common theme expressed in senior exit surveys. On the survey, students often state something to the effect of: "I can't believe what is allowed to happen," as regards student behavior.

It was agreed that suspension letters written for these two violations need to be very explicit so that any question of subjectivity is eliminated. It was suggested that administrators be provided some professional development in the area of suspension letter writing.

Joel Wright posed the question, "What if a student is disobedient but not bothering anyone?"

Joe stated that in order for schools to function, students must be expected to follow reasonable adult direction otherwise there would be no order and adults would lose all authority.

The general sense of the committee was to keep these two violations in the code but eliminate suspension as a possible consequence and, in the case of disobedience, create a new violation, #38 Gross Disobedience, that would allow for suspension. The consequences would read as follows for both middle and high school**:

#06 Disobedience:	1 st Offense:	Detention
	2 nd Offense:	Parent conference through in-school supervision/ILC
	Repeated/Severe:	See Violation #38 Gross Disobedience

#38 Gross Disobedience: 1st Offense: 1-day out-of-school suspension
2nd Offense: 1-3 day out-of-school suspension
Repeated/Severe: 3-day out-of-school suspension through
recommendation for reassignment to AIE and/or
expulsion

A revision to the existing “Gross Disobedience/Misconduct” definition in the elementary and secondary glossaries was suggested (strikethroughs represent deletions and bold font indicates additions):

~~GROSS DISOBEDIENCE/MISCONDUCT~~ – Repeated refusal or failure to comply with directions and/or instructions of a staff member, ~~impeding~~ **that impedes** on the educational process or ~~interfering~~ **interferes** with **the** teaching and learning **of others**. **An administrator must attempt to de-escalate and reason with the student prior to suspension.**

***It should be noted that the recommended changes above will be reviewed by attorney Jennifer Smith and further changes may result.*

Next meeting: January 14, 2016, 4:00 p.m., Mellon North Conference Room.

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