

BEA/District Joint Committee on Student Conduct

March 30, 2023

4:00-5:30 p.m.

Members present: Marty Atkins, Alli Chryst, Chris Cochran, Mike Copland, Nick Hayes, Kristin O'Malley, Lisa Peterson, Shirley Prichard, Courtney Ross, Robin Russell, Keith Schacht, Peggy Stephens, Kari Swackhammer, Janis Velasquez Farmer.

Welcome Back/Introductions

Co-Chair Mike Copland welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided an overview of the agenda.

Approval of February 28, 2023, Minutes

The committee members reviewed the minutes from the February 28, 2023, meeting. After brief reflections and comments, the minutes were approved as written.

Tools for Teaching

Keith shared the secondary discipline response chart, updated with input from the February 28, 2023, meeting. Discussion ensued.

Changes included the use of the word nicotine instead of cigarettes and the incorporation of the Bias/Hate speech toward others.

Questions surfaced:

Is wearing of Make America Great Again (MAGA) hats or wearing bandanas considered discriminatory harassment? Some elementary parents were wearing tee-shirts considered to be intimidating to students.

- A: Janis spoke about the "let's go Brandon" tee-shirts. Freedom of speech issues are in play unless the item results in the disruption of the educational environment. Legally, we are not allowed to infringe on first amendment rights. Items that are legally identified in the anti-defamation league as hate speech are on our list. If we disallowed MAGA hats or other political symbols, we would be open to legal challenge; similarly displaying other signs that could be construed as political in nature also.

What constitutes the assault of a teacher? Are all our teachers trained in Right Response?

- Concern was expressed that more elementary teachers need to be trained in de-escalation strategies.
- Our schools are dealing with staff who are getting injured, students who lash out physically occurs daily at schools.
- Removing students from school has limited results.
- The focus at elementary has been trying to shape the things that teachers and principals can control.
- A perspective was shared that involved starting with Tier 3 across the board and eventually getting to Tier 1.
- The work around de-

- Nick will bring the matrix and CST process together for a common training to get a commitment to do a couple hours of training on the August professional development day. Training needs to involve racial equity; cultural responsiveness; we are a relatively white staff; we must reach all the kids; training needs to address these issues specifically. There are teachers who want to do well with all kids, but whose practice involves practices that are oppressive.

Next steps

Nick/Mike to bring revised elementary document to elementary principals for feedback and dissemination.

Alli, Kari Swackhammer, Russ, Chris, Robin, Janis to pull together ideas to explore the possibility of developing short asynchronous professional development sessions that could be offered to schools around proactive, right response and positive discipline. These could be used as part of our opening August meetings.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Next Meeting: May 2, 2023, 4:00-5:30 p.m.