

Meeting Minutes

-- [Substance Abuse Policy Committee Meeting December 14, 2005](#)

CE School Board

Substance Abuse Policy Subcommittee

CE School Board

Substance Abuse Policy Subcommittee

Meeting Minutes- December 14, 2005

Members Present: Mary Cox, Heather Furman, (SAC), Keith Weatherbie, Trish Brigham, Elaine Moloney, Alan Hawkins, Mark Dorval, Mark Tinkham, Jeff Shedd, Rick Madden.

Committee members absent: Anne Belden, Katie Lisa

Guests: Conor Hankinson, Daly Gruen, Robert Furman, Kathy Ray, Kevin Sweeney

Meeting began at 8:00AM

Discussion Item: Contracts

The SAC representatives urged the Committee to incorporate seasonal contracts into the new policy. They based this belief on the fact that kids who participate in extracurricular activities should not be held to a higher standard than peers, when they are between seasons or not on a team. Also, they felt that the seasonal contract offers a good reminder each season about substance abuse issues; and taps into the positive aspects of peer pressure i.e. when a student feels a responsibility to their team mates to make good decisions. The students felt that seasonal contracts reinforced this pact mentality in the right way. The students felt that seasonal contracts would result in a more effective policy in terms of discouraging drinking among kids.

Discussion ensued acknowledging the positive effect which peer pressure can potentially have on students. The question was raised as to whether or not the concept reflected reality currently among the sports teams. Also raised was the issue that participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege, so that higher standards may be appropriate for students engaged in these activities. Also, in accordance with Code of Conduct, students need to be held accountable for their decisions, no matter when they occur.

The Committee also discussed the fact that a policy which included seasonal contracts as opposed to full-year contracts might send the message that the school district was condoning drinking when students were between seasons or off-contract. It was reiterated that drinking is illegal and we can't condone it in

any way. The student's premise that seasonal contracts would be more effective, even if they did send the wrong message was acknowledged as evidence that improved educational programs in the area of substance abuse were needed.

It was also noted that the role of parents needs to be factored into the issue of substance abuse policy. Parents should be involved in the education piece and in the contract process.

It was acknowledged that there was merit to arguments on both sides of the issue and that perhaps neither offer a perfect solution but shared goal was keeping kids safe and helping them make good decisions.

A vote was taken and the majority of the Committee supported the full year contract. The vote was 8-2 with all but Mary Cox and Heather Furman supporting the full year contract.

Discussion Topic: Tobacco

The SAC reps proposed that tobacco remain in the same policy as alcohol and drugs and not be discussed in a separate policy as was suggested at the last meeting. The Committee agreed in principle realizing that, some students are of legal age to use legalized tobacco products. Smoking is prohibited on school grounds for all, however.

Discussion Topic: Consequences/Full Year Contract Implementation

It was proposed that a year long contract would be signed at the beginning of the year and reviewed or referred to at beginning of each season. Office would keep a list of students who had signed contracts.

There are several issues related to consequences which arise when converting to a full year contract. The Administration and SAC will work together to draft a list which will define seasons; consequences- weeks vs. contests; timing of consequences- is immediate or when next activity begins... etc.

Discussion Topic: Consequences for violations on school grounds or at school events

Committee continued review of the draft document Jeff presented at the November meeting. There are several new consequences which are being proposed as additions to existing policy. These include:

*Forfeiture of school, athletic, activity and class leadership positions for the remainder of the year

*Forfeiture eligibility for National Honor Society and school recognitions except for strictly academic recognitions for the remainder of the year i.e. scholarships

*Forfeiture of the privilege to participate in covered activities for one calendar year

The Committee acknowledged that this situation implies that there is no self referral. The Committee supported these additional proposals.

Discussion Topic: Consequences for Furnishing or Trafficking illegal substances on school grounds

Same as above. New proposals include:

*Forfeiture of school, athletic and activity leadership positions for the remainder of student's CEHS career

*Forfeit eligibility for National Honor Society and all school recognitions except for strictly academic recognitions for remainder of student's CEHS career

This scenario withdraws these privileges for remainder of career, as opposed to year due to the more serious nature of the infraction.

The Committee did decide to withdraw the privilege of participating in a covered activity for one calendar year only as opposed to student's career as originally proposed. This was in recognition of the fact that the activity in which the student is involved may serve a positive role in the student's life.

Discussion Topic: Hosting Parties/crashing parties

Due to problems which have occurred around this activity, it was proposed that this scenario be included as an infraction in the policy. The Committee began discussing this, primarily in context of jurisdiction aspect and enforceability of the policy.

Administration commented that they currently spend time investigating what goes on each weekend. It is difficult to investigate these situations, and creates contentious situations.

It was mentioned that at some point parents need to take responsibility for what goes on in their homes and held responsible. The new "Key" program which the Police Dept. is introducing may help with this.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 AM. Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 11 @ 8AM in the Jordan Conference Room.

[Return to top](#)