

COQUILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT 8

March 22, 2018

Policy Committee Meeting 6PM
Lincoln School of Early Learning
1366 N. Gould St. Coquille, OR 97423
Board Room

POLICY MEETING

Board Chair Misty Thrash called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. and led the flag salute. Board members present were Traci GeDeros, Matt Rowe, Roy Wright. Others present were Superintendent Tim Sweeney and Board Secretary Brenda Goble. A list of people in the audience is included as part of the minutes.

MEETING BUSINESS

- Traci GeDeros made a motion to approve the agenda. Roy Wright seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

POLICY COMMITTEE LISTENING SESSION

Board Chair Misty Thrash explained to the audience that speakers should refrain from speaking any student or staff names. She also explained that this meeting was just a listening session so the board would only be listening to people's opinions of policy IDG-AR.

CJSH teacher Shane Boyd told the board how valuable he felt that both academics and extracurricular activities are. He then talked about how much importance students placed on athletics and extra-curricular activities. He feels that the policy with its high academic and attendance standards helps students perform academically and athletically.

CJSH coach and teacher Dave Thomason read a letter written by fellow CJSH teacher Jennifer Sweeney which went over her opinions of long suspensions and how that affects a team's cohesiveness negatively. Her letter then went on to explain how last school years change from half-day absences being acceptable the day preceding an athletic event to students being required to be in attendance a full day preceding an event, has positively impacted her classrooms. Dave Thomason talked about how having high standards could only bring student up. Dave went on to talk about his feelings regarding the policy which included his support of the implementation of full day attendance preceding an event as well. He talked about the positive impact of making contact with student before an extra-curricular event.

Parent and Juvenile Director Bryan Baird told the board that he would have appreciated more notice of the policy listening session. He then went on to tell the board about his impression of how the policy affected students. He believes we should have a high standard for student athletes. He talked about how his own children will attend classes sick just to be able to participate in athletics. He feels that a nine weeks' suspension is too long and could potentially encourage students to not perform academically and take them out of the pro-social environment that maybe the only thing keeping some students in school.

Parent and Coach Tim GeDeros told the board that in his opinion students should not be punished for choosing to take care of a family member over coming to school. In his opinion family comes first, school is second and sports are third. He feels that nine weeks of

punishment would encourage students to give up on school all together. He thinks that a two-week suspension with the student having to sit behind the bench for games and unable to play would be a better punishment.

Parent and Coach Tyler GeDeros explained to the board his opinion of having such a strict policy. He also feels that in some instances the situation should be taken on a case by case basis and exception should be made to accommodate students with special circumstances. He feels that the nine-week suspension policy is to extreme for a first offense.

Coach Melissa Hogan talked about the positive effects of extra-curricular activities on her own personal time in school. She then went on to talk about the effects of long suspensions on the performance of the cheer team. She also included that if the team is performing stunts a student who missed nine-weeks of practice could potentially cause a safety issue.

Parent and Coach Willy Layton explained that he made his student sit behind the bench when she was suspended from girls' basketball for two games. He did this because he believes that sports are the only reason he graduated from high school. He then told the board that he believes that being at school a full-day before an event isn't completely necessary. He also sends students home if they come to practice sick as he doesn't feel that getting the team sick is helpful.

CJSH Vice Principal Armando Ruiz believes that the policy has improved the communication with families and students. He does feel that the full-day before an even implementation was a good thing.

Parent and Juvenile Director Bryan Baird chose to speak again about all the extra-curricular activities that youth are involved in that give them pro-social situations to help them perform better academically and in life. He feels that it is essential to realize students are going to make mistakes and it would be wiser to handle that in a positive way instead of an extremely punitive way.

There was discussion between the board and the superintendent about when to hold the next policy committee meeting. It was decided that the meeting would take place on Monday April 23, 2018 from 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Misty Thrash adjourned the meeting at 6:51 p.m.

Approved