

## PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

November 9, 2009

Approved Minutes

### IN ATTENDANCE:

Committee Members: Susan Baskett and Glenn Nelson; Absent: Randy Friedman

Staff Members: Joyce Hunter, LeeAnn Dickinson-Kelly, Michelle Pogliano, Jim Podojil

Others: D'asia and Monique Hurley, Farris Johnson

Susan Baskett called the meeting to order at 6:03pm.

No one was present for Public Commentary

### **Middle School Retention Policy**

Middle and High School Administrator, Joyce Hunter presented the draft of a proposed policy on Middle **School Retention**. The District has received feedback from the PTOC and the PAC. The Committee asks that Joyce make one more attempt to get feedback from the BPSSG.

The Committee also requested that Administration consider adding a timeline or expected timeframe as to when the appeal committee meeting is to be held.

The Committee would also like to see all of the documents noted in the administrative regulations: Parent Guide to Grade Retention, Checklist for Interventions, Light's Retention Survey, Student Retention Worksheet, Parent Consent Form and any other relevant publications.

### **Placements into Alternative Programs**

Referring to the presented document, this is still work-in-progress. The Committee has for more clarification on a few issues:

#### **Stone School:**

-Demographics-should include a note that this is a school of choice (if that's still true); should also note the age range of eligible students

-Program-should note '*fewer higher level*\_\_\_\_(*courses*)?' should also note the online options

-Student Population-need to change this note; capacity is 200, but currently we have 105 enrolled

#### **Roberto Clemente:**

-Demographics-currently states, "*Originally designed for behavioral problems*". Please provide a description of the current student population.

-Programs-currently states, “basics”-we need to expand on this. Are or aren’t the students expected to meet the same new graduation requirements? Is this possible at RC? Please provide a description of the school’s current curriculum.

-Student Population-see previous note for Stone; capacity is 200, but currently we have 95 students

### **Overall**

The Committee is very happy to see progress on outlining the process of how a student can enter Stone and Roberto Clemente; however, a few issues were still outstanding:

-Need a clear definition of ‘home school’

-A timeline is needed regarding when an inquiring student can be expected to be interviewed for placement; when can s/he expect an answer; when the student can enter, etc

-Is it the best practice to have a student enter mid-semester? A student currently can enter anytime.

-When a student is referred to either school, for disciplinary actions, should support services be anticipated to assist the student’s success? If so, this needs to be stated somewhere.

-The Board has received questions regarding how a student may be forced out of his/her ‘home school’ without due process as with a disciplinary action, usually to be referred to Roberto Clemente. In reverse, we hear of students who are being pushed from the alternative program to their ‘home school’, even though the alternative school was their first high school experience. Administration reports that principals tend to treat the student’s placement at the alternative school as a ‘privilege’ (not her exact words), and can be forced to go to either large comprehensive high school. IF this is to be the continued practice (the Committee is not taking a position that it is), the District needs to clearly state that the student is vulnerable and held to a different standard. S/he should be ‘warned’ of his/her vulnerability of losing his/her placement at the alternative school.

-The student should also be informed of his/her ability to participate in the extracurricular activities (including and beyond sports) at the larger high schools. The Committee recognizes that students who opt into Skyline do not have the same allowance to participate in the activities of his/her ‘intended school’. It is noted that this is different for those students who attend Community and Roberto Clemente. It was unclear about the students at Stone. This needs to be clarified for all students.

-All of this new information needs to be communicated to the community. How will that be done? Is any of this information in the “Rights and Responsibilities Handbook”? Not to say that it should be there, it just seemed like the one communication that expected to reach every student household.

### **Elementary Retention Policy Amendment**

The Committee expects that this will be written in the same format as the other retention policies. We also ask that Administration reviews the previously mentioned document, *Parent Guide to Grade Retention*, is appropriate for elementary school parents. If not, perhaps it can be tweaked as to avoid having two separate documents.

### **Update on Ann Arbor Family and Preschool Center (AAF&PC)**

Presented by interim principal, Michelle Pogliano and assistant principal, Jim Podojil, this update is on the district’s tuition-free preschool programs. The district has two preschool programs offered in two different elementary schools at a cost to parents.

The AAF&PC strives to be the hub of preschool education and services. The program offers professional development to the district’s staff and for other preschool educational professionals in the community as well.

In 2008/2009, AAF&PC served 600 families. 161 families are served through the district’s *Head Start* program and the balance through the *Great Start Readiness* program. These two programs comprise of the ‘general education’ curriculum. There is also a special education curriculum consisting of the “*Birth to 5*” and “*First Steps*,” programs.

The ethnic breakdown of the entire school population is:

African American	23%
Asian	7%
Caucasian	31%
Latino/Hispanic	10%
Middle Eastern	5%
Multi-Ethnic	14%

Staff members also reviewed the various initiatives offered at the AAFC&PC, such as: Family Literacy, Life Skills Development, Parent training and support groups and community partnerships, such as the one with *Food Gathers*. Over 6000 pounds of food has been distributed to families of the AAFC&PC. This was recently featured in **A2Journal**.

The preschool staff also asked the Committee for support of their resolution to accept \$204,000 for this fiscal year. These funds come from the Michigan

Department of Education. The funds will be used to provided educational services for the *Great Start/Head Start* blend or home-based programs. The Committee supports the staff presenting the resolution for approval of the full Board at its next meeting on November 18, 2009.

**Annual Financial Audit**

Plante Moran auditors, Karen Hart and Eric Fromberg presented the district's annual financial audit. The auditors were very complimentary of the district's business operations staff. The auditors assured the Committee that everything was in good order.

The Committee previewed the full report that will be presented to the Board at its next meeting.

**Adjournment**

Susan Baskett adjourned the meeting at 8:35pm.