

Parent Advisory Meeting Notes
March 1, 2018

The Parent Advisory meeting was held on March 1, 2018, with 18 parent representatives in attendance.

Esperanza McCrary, Parent Engagement Specialist, welcomed the group to the Parent Advisory meeting.

Dr. Sean Impeartrice, Chief Academic Officer – Student Code of Conduct

Dr. Impeartrice explained the process of reviewing the Student Code of Conduct (SCoC) each year. Members of the Parent Advisory and Student Advisory are asked to provide feedback. Departments have an opportunity to provide input. Once revisions have been made our legal counsel, Carol Joiner, reviews the SCoC before it is sent to the Board for approval.

Dr. Impeartrice discussed the meaning of zero tolerance and explained that it is a state law. Many of the codes have the TCA reference. We follow state guidelines for the section on bullying/harassment/intimidation. The definitions and process for reporting and investigating are clearly defined by state law.

A parent opened discussion pertaining to bomb threats and false fire alarms holding the same weight. Mr. House explained the appeal process, which is available anytime a student makes a bad decision. Dr. Impeartrice pointed out that both offenses are covered under the same criminal code. There is a footnote on both of them which states the student will be reported to the appropriate law enforcement.

A couple of parents voiced safety concerns regarding after school activities. Why can't students carry something to protect themselves? Kids normally are not paying attention to their surroundings. Dr. Impeartrice stated that it is common practice for an adult to stay until all students have left or been picked up.

Mr. House, Director of Schools - Student Walk Out

We have had conversations with our student government groups about the pending walkouts. The number one concern is safety of our students. Students are going to be given alternate opportunities to express themselves; however, not all students are the same. We are trying to get students to understand that it is unsafe to leave the building on a preset date and time. Plans are in place to keep track of students who choose to walk out. There will be information sent out regarding the district's expectations. This is a national move and we cannot prohibit students from participating.

We are working closely with law enforcement and have had several internal conversations. Next week we are meeting with the fire department and APSU security. There is going to be a public meeting held on March 12, 2018.

Parent Questions

Zero tolerance only refers to the middle and high schools, what about elementary?

Elementary follows the same rules as middle school, but it has to be age appropriate. Also, there is no alternative school for elementary. There are developmental stages that we have to consider.

What about elementary students with disabilities? Is there a way to separate them?
In extreme cases that jeopardize safety of a student or others, there is the option of homebound.

Are students taught about sexual harassment at school?
Yes. That education goes on any time there is a situation. Guidance counselors talk to elementary students about the proper way to behave and how they should be treated. In middle and high it is covered in health class. If a situation occurs that involves sexual harassment, DCS and the police department are notified.

Are students educated regarding “sexting”?
In middle and high school students are taught about this in health. It is discussed in elementary if a situation occurs that makes it necessary. If a picture is discovered on a phone, that could be considered a federal offense and the police would help in those situations.

Does law enforcement have a way to get into our schools during an emergency?
If law enforcement needs to gain access to our schools, they are trained and know how to gain access to a building.

What materials are portables built out of?
They are usually made with a wooden frame and the materials are very similar to those used in a house.

Where do students in portables go during an emergency?
It depends on the type of emergency. If there is a soft lockdown, they remain in the portable and lock the doors. If it is a hard lockdown, students would be moved inside the building. Any time serious weather occurs, students are moved inside.

Will parents be notified if their student walks out?
No. If there are any discipline issues, parents of those students will be contacted. If it is a peaceful demonstration, no action will be taken.

The meeting notes from each meeting are posted on the CMCSS website under the “Students and Parents” tab.

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