

CEDAR GROVE-BELGIUM AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Cedar Grove, Wisconsin

Minutes of Curriculum & Policy Committee Meeting – November 18, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by co-chairperson, Jim Lautenschlaeger. Committee members Aileen Dahlke and Chad Hoopman were present. Also present were Shirley Asma, David Claerbaut, John Hocking, Erica Kirst, Cindy Kruis, Lori MacRae, Les Paul, Tom Paulson, Carol Pomeday, Linda Ruona, Steven Shaw, Tina Stauber, Jeff Thiel, Sue Voskuil, and Nancy Zimmer.

Proof of notice was established and the meeting was found to be properly called.

The committee continued to discuss the A+ grade in the grading scale. Mr. Hocking gave the committee members a copy of recommendations from the teachers that included a regular grading scale and an advanced grading scale. The A+ was still on both scales, but given differing number values depending upon the scale. Mr. Hocking noted that the A+ had been used for 12-13 years in the district and was recommended by the Board to break ties for determining valedictorian of the class. Aileen Dahlke stated that CG-B is the only district that has an A+ on the grading scale and also requires the lowest GPA for honor role. She would like to see our district comparable to other schools in the conference. Several teachers spoke in favor of the A+ grade including Linda Ruona, Tom Paulson and Tina Stauber. Linda Ruona said that students are not given an A for just “showing up for class”, they have to earn the grades. Tom Paulson admitted to giving a lot of A+'s in band, but felt the students worked hard to earn the grades. He noted that many of our graduates are in college bands as non-music majors and that the district has received numerous awards (including a Grammy) for excellence in band. Aileen Dahlke stated that if a student was not in band they would never be able to earn valedictorian of the class, without the A+'s in band for 8 semesters. The students have been given a survey by Board Student Rep., Wayne Paulus, to find out how they feel about the A+ grade. The committee will again review this topic at the December 16 committee meeting.

The next item to be discussed was to review the district music program. Mr. Shaw and Jim Lautenschlaeger both stated that they have received emails from parents asking for more music opportunities for their children. Mr. Shaw challenged the music teachers to see what they could do about finding time for additional offerings. Linda Ruona noted that the teachers are excited that the Board is taking an interest in this area. Mr. Paulson hoped that there would be a bigger (money not cut) band budget for funding any new programs that would be considered. Linda Ruona would like to offer an advanced choir in the HS, but would need more time. A middle school and high school jazz band were also suggested. The committee will wait for a proposal from the music department with additional time needed – either through expanded hours for present teachers or having to hire someone new, before making any recommendations.

The committee reviewed language in proposed Policy 165.1 – Conflict of Interest. Jeff Thiel asked why someone couldn't hold two public offices. Mr. Shaw will check with legal counsel on that. The committee will recommend Policy 165.1 to the full board in December.

The committee also reviewed revisions Mr. Hocking had made to the Extracurricular Code. Revisions included: clearer explanation of the 15-day suspension; students will become ineligible to participate in extracurricular activities if he/she engages in any act that in the opinion of the athletic director brings discredit to the athlete, his/her team, the school or the community; a Board of Education member will be part of the appeal hearing committee. The committee will recommend the Board accept the changes at the meeting in December.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.