

District Educational Improvement Committee Meeting
Tuesday, June 14, 2011 9:00 Training Center

Attending: Monty Chapman, Patti Seckman, Joyce Hardy, Stacie Meadows, Amy Norwood, Kim Talley, Kristin Gage, Mac Edwards, Sherry McAsey, Susan Smith, Eva Read.

Guests- Cory Brooks, Lonny Brooks, Alicia Groce, Dexter Goad

I. Parent request to address committee on Dress Code policy- Mr. and Mrs. Brooks addressed the committee regarding the present policy on hair length for males. Requested the committee consider a recommendation of a longer length for the hair instead of the requirement it be cut over the ears. They agree with present policy of out of eyes, clean, with naturally occurring colors. Also, questioned the policy of "cut often" - what does it mean?

The discussion included committee members voicing that the dress code is what sets Paradise apart from many districts and is seen as a positive aspect. The Brooks displayed pictures of their son with hair on ears compared to magazine pictures of spiked hair which they felt is messy, yet within the district code. The Brooks referenced a couple of Wise County school district's policies when addressing the committee. After their presentation, all parties addressing the committee departed.

The committee discussion --agreed to recommend to the board "cut often" be deleted.

Further discussion- pointed out was no matter what the hair length policy, the number of discipline referrals would be the same. Also, currently the administrators give students/parents ample time to get the hair cut and the discipline is not because of the dress code, but of the refusal to comply.

II. Recommendations from the high school site-based committee were discussed. The two requests - all garments, including those worn by females, must have sleeves and all clothing must be free of holes, tears, or frays were reviewed. Understanding the issues faced when enforcing the code, the committee did their best to develop a recommendation which would assist administrators and be acceptable to parents.

Decisions- made no recommendations to change the policy regarding holes, tears or frays based on availability of clothing to meet the code and leaving some interpretation of administrators with economically disadvantaged students.

On restricting sleeveless clothing for females- the committee felt the same outcome could be reached with the following rewrite of present policy.

Dress Code

1. Halter tops, bare midriffs, spaghetti straps, tube tops, undergarments worn as outer wear, or cut and/or torn articles of clothing will not be allowed. Sleeveless shirts or blouses may be worn by girls, but must have a shoulder strap width of 2 ½ inches (width of a dollar bill **with backs**)

completely covered). Boys will wear shirts with sleeves. Tank tops and muscle shirts are not allowed. Visible cleavage when sitting or standing is NOT allowed. Any garment that shows any inappropriate part of the body due to sitting, bending, or raising hands and are a distraction to the educational process will not be allowed.

9. Hair for all students must be out of the eyes and clean. , and cut often. Hair for male students will be styled so that it is off the collar, out of the eyes, and ears are completely visible, with no tails or braids. Hair thickness will not exceed 2" on the top of the head and 1" on the sides and back of the head.

III. Policies on Homework, Grading, and Weight were reviewed. Presently all campuses are 40% daily/homework; 40% test/quiz and 20% six weeks test. Voiced were several concerns, including - 1 or 2 quiz grades are detrimental to a student's overall grade; short six weeks- Mr. Edwards noted that the secondary had taken measures to allow more instructional time by not requiring a test during these six weeks.

Mr. Chapman interjected each campus should have a system for reporting grades/progress of students at their individual campus which works best at those grade levels. Each campus, theoretically, could have a different weighted system. Agreed this would allow for more meaningful assessment of student learning, but time to get teachers together to make decisions with administrators prior to grade book set up in PEIMS, may be an issue.

IV. Other discussion- Dani Noble had asked for suggestions on lunch charge policy. The recommendations for her included- consistently enforced at all campuses so parents hear the same policy for all children. A phone call made by the cafeteria manager to parent before a student is given a sandwich.

Other discussion- Needs assessment- Special Education- Inclusion for the delivery of content with students pulled during independent practice for assistance by the special education teachers.

Must continue to find methods to educate the increasing numbers of economically disadvantaged students.