

**Portage Public Schools
Monitoring Report**

Policy Type: Executive Limitation
Policy Title: (2.2) Treatment of Staff

Global Board Policy

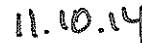
With respect to the treatment of paid and volunteer staff, the Superintendent may not cause or allow conditions which are inequitable, unsafe, undignified, disorganized, unclear, or result in a conflict of interest.

Certification

I hereby present my monitoring report on Executive Limitation, 2.2, "Treatment of Staff" in accordance with the monitoring schedule established by the Board. I certify that the information provided in this report is true as of November 4, 2014.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. B. B.", written over a horizontal line.

Signature

A handwritten date "11.10.14" in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

Date

Interpretation

I submit that the Board's Policy is comprehensively interpreted in the succeeding five sections. My interpretations of those sections, the report, and conclusion statements are presented below.

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2.2.1 POLICY LANGUAGE

The Superintendent shall not operate without written personnel rules which: (a) clarify rules for staff, (b) provide for effective handling of grievances, and (c) protect against wrongful conditions, such as nepotism and grossly preferential treatment for personal reasons.

Interpretation

I interpret this to mean that:

1. Written Policies and guidelines exist and are available for all staff.
2. Supervisory staff receives training related to personnel Policies at least annually.
3. Master agreements with employees contain language addressing the grievance process.
4. Policies and guidelines regarding nepotism and preferential treatment for personal reasons are in place and are shared with staff.

Report

The District is in the process of transitioning to NEOLA Policies and Guidelines. Once in place, the District will have comprehensive Policies and Guidelines for all areas of operations. These Policies will then be updated twice each year. In the meantime, we continue to follow existing Board Policies and Regulations except in those cases where laws have changed. In those situations we follow the law. Board Governance Policies are available on-line on the District's web site. Operational Policies and Regulations are available in District offices in printed form. NEOLA Policies will be available on-line once they are approved by the Board.

Training on new District Policies and Guidelines is conducted at Administrative Team meetings and/or by legal counsel.

A review of Master Agreements indicates that each contains grievance procedures with clearly defined processes.

NEOLA Policies (3120 and 4120) that relate to employment of professional and support staff address nepotism and preferential treatment concerns and will be available on-line once approved.

Conclusion Statement

The organization met expectations.

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2.2.2 POLICY LANGUAGE

The Superintendent shall not discriminate against any staff member for non-disruptive expression of dissent.

Interpretation

I interpret this to mean:

1. Fewer than 10 employees (approximately 1% of the total employees at Portage Public Schools) find it necessary to utilize the formal grievance procedure in our Master Agreements to protest retaliation.
2. Fewer than five (5) employees (approximately .5% of the total employees at Portage Public Schools) or former employees find it necessary to seek resolution through the courts.

Report

1. No grievances of this nature have been filed.
2. No such actions have been taken.

Conclusion Statement

The organization met expectations.

2.2.3 POLICY LANGUAGE

The Superintendent shall not prevent staff from addressing the board when (a) internal grievance procedures have been exhausted, and (b) the employee alleges that board policy has been violated to his or her detriment.

Interpretation

I interpret this to mean:

1. If complaints are not resolved through the grievance process, as outlined in the respective collective bargaining agreements, the staff member will be given guidance on how to address the Board of Education.
2. All written complaints by staff alleging that Board Policy has been violated will be forwarded to the Secretary of the Board within 48 hours of receipt in the Superintendent's Office.

Report

During this past year all except three grievances have been resolved prior to reaching the Superintendent's level. The final step of the grievance procedure in all of the Master Agreements specifies that unresolved grievances be submitted to the American Arbitration Association. To my knowledge, no such submittals have been made.

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No written complaints from staff alleging violation of Board Policy were received during the past year.

Conclusion Statement

The organization met expectations.

2.2.4 POLICY LANGUAGE

The Superintendent shall not allow staff to be uninformed or unaware of their protections under this policy as interpreted by the Superintendent.

Interpretation

I interpret this to mean that all staff members have access to electronic copies of master contract agreements.

Report

All current collective bargaining agreements are posted on the District's website and available to everyone through the "Transparency Reporting" icon.

Conclusion Statement

The organization met expectations.

2.2.5 POLICY LANGUAGE

With respect to the treatment of paid staff; no District employee shall have a direct supervisory role of a family member. "Family member" means a person's spouse or spouse's sibling or sibling's spouse or child; a person's child or child's spouse; or a person's spouse or parent's spouse, and includes relationships as created by adoption or marriage.

Interpretation

I interpret this to mean that the District may employ multiple family members as long as there is no direct supervisory relationship between family members.

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Report

The District, through its HR information system, maintains information on employees of the District who have a spouse working in the system and has actively managed situations where this occurs to ensure that there is not a supervisory relationship in place. This includes the use of Assistant Principals to supervise in secondary buildings or the movement of affected staff when other supervisory arrangements cannot be made. New employees are asked if they have any relatives who serve as Board members, Administrators or other supervisors in the Portage Public Schools. This allows HR to ensure that any new conflicting placements are avoided should the individual be hired by the District.

Two situations currently exist where supervisory arrangements have been made 1) at Central High School the Principal's spouse is a teacher on staff and is being supervised by an Assistant Principal; and 2) at West Middle School the Assistant Principal's spouse is a teacher on staff and is being supervised by the Principal.

Conclusion Statement

The organization met expectations.