

## Code of Conduct Committee Meeting 6/11

By Amy Race

- The meeting began with a review of the final draft as it was presented to the BOE at the last meeting. The BOE voted to continue the Code of Conduct Committee. Peter Meyer said that the committee needed to go through the final report and wondered who was going to run the committee now that he is leaving the BOE.
- Peter had several codes of conduct from other school districts that he passed out. Anna Barletta wondered what made the codes of conduct good comparisons. One of the codes was from Dayton, OH. Peter said that the school district in Dayton was a high performing district with low-income students.
- The committee continued to look at the final report. Peter commented that the important findings were in the numbers; so many referrals written (4,668 referrals made in four schools in less than six months), so few kids responsible for so many of them (less than one percent of students responsible for 25 percent of referrals), and African American students being disciplined disproportionately.
- Anna said that she felt cell phone usage needed to be addressed and that some districts make students put their cell phones in their lockers until the end of the day.
- Peter commented that having district administrators present at the Code of Conduct meetings is very important. A brief discussion ensued regarding earning back referrals and a demerit system. A discussion took place about the school reports. Someone noted that part of the point of the Code of Conduct Committee is that it is district-wide and that some standardization would help. JLE currently does not use eSchool.
- Peter moved on to new business. Two questions he raised were 1) What will the Committee do? And 2) What happens as the Committee moves forward? Peter suggested that next year, around this time, the Committee should submit a new report to the BOE. Tiney Abitabile said that it should be sooner to implement changes. Mark Brenneman said that the Committee should have a report by March 1<sup>st</sup> if there are changes. The primary goal of the report is to measure the effectiveness of the Code of Conduct. Peter wondered if the Code of Conduct is doing what it's supposed to be doing. The Committee should be responsible for making additional recommendations for improvements and should revise the actual Code of Conduct. Peter noted again that the only thing that the BOE has done regarding the Code was to vote that the Code of Conduct Committee should continue. Rick suggested that there be a formal structure to how the Committee is established. Everyone seemed to agree that the Committee should be comprised of parents, students, teachers and administrators. Someone pointed out that the BOE should appoint a BOE member to sit on the Code of Conduct Committee. Several members of the committee talked about whether it would be more effective to have quarterly meetings or monthly meetings and whether or not administrators should have a rotating schedule for who attends each meeting.
- Anna wondered what the Committee had accomplished so far. Again, the question of what the Committee wants to do was raised. David Frank said that he thought that creating a culture that

students are proud of was one of the most important things that the Committee should focus on. They agreed. Anna said that she felt the Code of Conduct should produce better conducted students and that the Code should be all about the students.

- Peter suggested that the Committee should fix the mission statement. Anna said that the Code of Conduct should be simplified and not complicated. Peter said that we should look at more research, but reminded everyone that many of these recommendations are in the current report and he hoped the committee moving forward would work from that report.
- Rick noted that the students need concrete limits. As an example, he said that if a student receives 30 referrals, that student should be put on probation, and a demerit system should kick in. He reiterated that the Code of Conduct is vague and that students rely on limits. He said that most kids, when given a limit, will adhere to the rules. A limitless system gives the students limitless referrals.
- Peter said that the most important thing for the new committee is to figure out what to focus on. David said he thought that the biggest thing that needs to happen is student involvement. He said students don't know what the Code of Conduct Committee is and he suggested having a student representative for the Code of Conduct Committee. Kathy Clark suggested talking to the students and having more outreach.
- The conversation returned to when the committee should meet again. The administrators will be working during the summer. A start date needs to be established. Most everyone agrees that there needs to be staff and student orientations for the Code of Conduct. The Code of Conduct must be on the school district web site and a copy must be given to the parents.