

**LAMOILLE NORTH MODIFIED UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT  
POLICY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
JULY 24, 2017**

**Those in attendance:** Katie Orost, Jeff Hunsberger, David Whitcomb, Angie Evans, David Manning, Brian Schaffer, Melinda Mascolino

**Minute Taker:** Sue Trainor

**First Review of the Following Recommended VSBA Policies: Student Conduct and**

**Discipline:** Manning outlined the section of the VSBA policy which stated that, “The principal, in consultation with the educational staff, would develop an overall discipline plan. ... The guidelines may include provisions for the suspension or expulsion of students who engage in misconduct ...”. He explained that he could take the section in the JES policy and put it in the student handbook to satisfy this policy. Manning thought this policy allowed for principals to develop their own protocol for particular offenses. Orost suggested consistency throughout the district might be desired. Manning stated the VSBA didn’t call for consistency.

Hunsberger then asked Schaffer about rumors he had heard about the use of bad language and conduct between students at the High School, with adults and staff being around and not addressing it. He asked if that was normal. Schaffer stated there were many interactions between the middle, high school and tech students and the majority of those were positive. He stated that when incidents were reported, they were dealt with in accordance with established procedures. The students were disciplined through a restorative justice practice. Manning reported that he had worked in a number of schools and all of them had students who were disrespectful to adults. The issue with high school was the students were larger, louder and used profanity. The elementary students were just as disrespectful but were smaller and had more limited vocabularies.

Manning, returning to discussion of the policy, stated that the upside of the policy was that each school could handle issues the way they thought worked for their culture. The downside was that there wouldn’t be consistency. Leaving the policy as it was would allow some schools to use restorative justice practices and others not. Mascolino noted that the principals were comfortable with individualized school procedures, and that most principals were following similar practices.

Manning suggested, for both school autonomy and oversight, to change the sentence to read: “The principal, in consultation with the educational staff **and superintendent...**” The superintendent would be able to determine if schools were treating situations very differently and could bring it before the Administrative Council. Orost noted the policy needed to be reworded in a way that included all schools, not just one.