The Board of Education of the Dayton City School District convened in special session on Monday, November 16, 2009 at 6:01 p.m. in the Board Room, 115 S. Ludlow Street, Dayton, Montgomery County, Ohio, with President Mims in the Chair.

November 9, 2009

SPECIAL MEETING

In accordance with Section 3313.16 of the Ohio Revised Code and File: BD of the Handbook of Policies, Rules & Regulations of the Board, I hereby call for a special meeting of the Board of Education of the Dayton City School District, Montgomery County, Ohio, to be held in the Board Room of the Administration Building, 115 S. Ludlow St. Dayton, Ohio on Monday, November 16, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.

At this meeting the Board will hear public comments regarding the possible implementation of a policy addressing Senate Bill 311 (physical education waiver). Public comments at this meeting are limited to the stated topic and will follow the Board’s standard policy of “Public Participation at Board Meetings.”

No action is expected to be taken on this item at this meeting.

This meeting is in compliance with Section 121.22 (G) <5> and 121.22 (G) <1> of the Ohio Revised Code.

The media is being advised of this meeting in compliance with the Ohio Sunshine Law.

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS ANSWERING ROLL CALL:   Isaacs, Lacey, Lee, Mims, Nerny, Taylor, Thompson – 7
{SSR – Melson} - PRESENT

MEMBERS ABSENT:   None – 0

PLEDGE

Pledge of allegiance to the flag.

MS. TAYLOR – CHAIR OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

According to Ms. Taylor, due to SB311 Physical Education Waiver policy, this special meeting is being held to receive community feedback regarding this matter.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

The following addressed the board:  Donna LaChance, Nathan LaChance, Curt Hagan, Reverend Sherry Gale, Lucinda Adams, George DeMarco, Kevin Lorson, Michael Triola, Tom Milord, Keith Cosby, Lindsay Cosby, Coco Gagnet, Kathleen Foley, Mario, Robin Proftt, Zach Vargo, Deb Harvey, Erica Harvey, Erin Dooley, James Caldwell, Gail Miller, Michele Hangen and Odell Graves.
EXECUTIVE SESSION

Pursuant to Section 121.22, (G) <2> of the Ohio Revised Code, I move that this board go into Executive Session in the conference room to consider the discipline of an employee and other terms and conditions of their employment.

Is there a second? Ms. Thompson Seconded. May we have a roll call please?

AYES: Isaacs, Lacey, Lee, Mims, Nerny, Taylor, Thompson – 7
NAYS: None – 0

Motion Carried to go into Executive Session

After the session ended, the Chair stated to let the record show that the Board of Education of the Dayton City School District just completed an Executive Session during which it discussed the discipline of an employee and other terms and conditions of their employment.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, it was moved by Mr. Mims and seconded by Mr. Lee to adjourn.

AYES: Isaacs, Lacey, Lee, Mims, Nerny, Taylor, Thompson – 7
NAYS: None – 0

Motion Carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

ATTEST:

Stanley E. Lucas, Treasurer / Chief Financial Officer
Jeffrey J. Mims, Jr., President
On behalf of the parents and students of Stivers School for the Arts, the Stivers Parent Association requests that the Dayton Board of Education create a policy in accordance with section 3313.603(L) of the Ohio Revised Code/Senate Bill 311 allowing for a Physical Education waiver for those students who have participated in two full seasons of interscholastic sports and/or cheerleading.

A. We believe a Waiver Policy should be instituted for the following reasons:

1. IT OFFERS CHOICE.

We believe that students should have the choice to pursue an alternate course of study if they have met their Physical Education requirement through qualifying interscholastic sports. Not every student athlete will choose to waive the Physical Education requirement. Some will still choose to take PE. However, there are others who would like to pursue an alternate course of study to broaden their high school experience and better prepare them for college.

2. IT IMPACTS COLLEGE ADMISSIONS & SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES.

College Admission and Financial Aid offices, as well as scholarship organizations, consider several variables when evaluating a student’s college and/or scholarship application including, but not limited to: completion of high school graduation requirements; GPA; Honors and AP coursework; extracurricular activities; demonstrated leadership; and community service. Calls to several universities and colleges in Ohio indicated that the number (and associated grades) of AP, Honors and even elective classes on a high school students transcript are noted and taken into consideration by Admissions and scholarship personnel. Those same Admissions officers also stated that they do not look for successful completion of a Physical Education course at the high school level. Simply put, high school Physical Education credit is not a consideration in the college admissions process.

Furthermore, many Fine Arts programs (Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, for example) look at the number and types of Arts classes in which an applicant was enrolled during high school. Each student applicant must successfully complete an audition, demonstrating mastery of skills attained in high school, in order to be admitted into the program. In addition, Admissions personnel commented that the skills acquired by the student during participation in an Arts course of study in high school, better prepare him/her for the rigors of the audition process and the college curriculum. Therefore, having the ability to enroll in a variety of Arts classes at the high school level greatly benefits and prepares our students who desire to pursue careers in the Arts. The waiver program provides these students with the opportunity to take an additional Arts class if they so desire.

3. IT VALIDATES THE QUALITY OF THE INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS PROGRAM

For an interscholastic sport to be eligible for the waiver requirement, it must meet the minimum Physical Education curriculum requirements set forth by the state and the local school district. By granting the waiver, the Board of Education stipulates that the interscholastic sport is as rigorous as the traditional PE course of study. This ensures quality programming.

Beyond the physical benefits of participation in high school athletics, research has repeatedly proven that students who participate in sports perform better in school, have strong social skills, have increased confidence and self-esteem and are more likely to graduate high school and college. As a result, it can be surmised that a waiver program not only ensures that the Physical Education programming requirement is met, but it also gives student athletes the opportunity to develop the important life skills and attributes associated with participation in team sports.
4. IT ADDRESSES THE PROBLEM OF OVERLOADED P.E. CLASSES

For the current school year, there are 965 high school students enrolled at Stivers. There is one Physical Education teacher on staff. Stivers offers 12 sections of P.E. as follows:

- 4 middle school PE sections - maximum of 32 kids per section. Section enrollment #’s are: 29, 34, 35, and 37. **Three of the four sections are over capacity.**
- 8 high school PE sections - maximum of 35 kids per section. Section enrollment #’s are: 42, 46, 44, 40, 45, 44, 40, and 44. **All high school P.E. sections are over capacity.**

Having all High School PE sections over capacity (by as much as 11 students depending on the section) is a disservice to our students and our teacher. Further more, there is a cost associated with “overload” pay to teachers. By decreasing the number of over capacity classes, the district can realize a cost savings. Allowing qualifying students to opt out of P.E. can help decrease the number of over capacity P.E. classes, which helps save money.

5. IT IS A STRATEGY FOR ACHIEVING DPS’ STRATEGIC GOAL #1

For the 2009-2010 school year, Dayton Public Schools’ first strategic goal is to “provide high quality education for college and careers”. Implementation of a waiver program allows qualifying students to take an additional AP, honors, PSEO or elective class, which should impact the following metric associated with strategic goal #1:

“% of high school students enrolled in postsecondary education options, Advanced Placement courses, or International Baccalaureate program”

B. Our desire to have a waiver policy should not be seen as a lack of support for the district’s Physical Education teachers or curriculum. In fact, student participation in school athletics is validation that the message concerning the importance of physical fitness and physical activity is getting across to many students and families.

1. A recent article in the Journal of Physical Education, Recreation and Dance stated that Physical Education instructors should “make the physical education experience sufficiently motivating for students to choose to be active outside of class.” Our interscholastic students are choosing to be involved in physical activity. A waiver program recognized them for that choice.

2. A recent study completed by the National Federation of State High School Associations revealed that participation in high school sports are at an all-time high. For the 2008-2009 school year, high school sports established records for participation by both boys and girls. According to NFHS Executive Director, Robert F. Kanaby “The record participation levels for boys and girls reflect the fact that participation in high school sports is of great value to our nation’s young people.” (www.nfhs.org/print.aspx?id=3505). Our Physical Education teachers have played an important role in encouraging physical activity and participation in school sports.

3. According to a recent article by Dawn Comstock, PhD (a principle investigator at the Center for Injury Research and Policy at The Research Institute at Nationwide Children’s Hospital and an assistant professor at The Ohio State University in the College of Medicine and the College of Public Health), “Encouraging youth participation in sports and other physical activities is an important way to promote a healthy lifestyle that can lead to decreased risk of overweight and obesity and a higher quality of life.”
C. We concede that child/youth obesity is a growing problem in our culture. Certainly, traditional Physical Education courses are a strategy to combat that problem. However, the following is noteworthy:

1. Childhood obesity has been on the rise while students have been enrolled in traditional Physical Education classes. There are some students and families who choose not to heed the messages concerning physical activities and healthy lifestyle choices. While P.E. is important, it alone cannot eradicate the problem of childhood obesity.

2. A study by Cawley, Meyerhofer, and Newhouse (Not your father’s PE: Obesity, Exercise and the Role of Schools, Sept. 22, 2006) indicated that, when it comes to the issue of childhood obesity, the effectiveness of state P.E. requirements is mixed at best. The study went on to recommend that improvements to P.E. curriculum should precede any increases in P.E. time as a means of addressing childhood obesity. We infer that time spent in P.E. class does not necessarily result in weight loss or improved health.

3. We submit that that the percentage of obese students involved in high school athletics is less than the percentage of obese students in the general school population. Simple observation of our student athletes at games and practices allows one to see that there are far fewer obese students on our school-sanctioned teams than in our general school population.

In conclusion, our desire is to offer a waiver program that allows students who have participated successfully for two or more seasons on a school-sanctioned interscholastic sports or cheerleading team the choice to pursue an AP/Honors/PSEO/elective course of study in place of the P.E. requirement for graduation. By doing so, we believe the district is acknowledging the students’ commitment to physical fitness and healthy living and is allowing students to position themselves to be as competitive as possible in the college and scholarship application process.
OHIO REVISED CODE

Section 3313.603 – Requirements for high school graduation – Workforce or College Preparatory units.

Section 3313.603(A) (4) – Physical Education, one-half unit

Section 3313.603(A) (2) – Health, one-half unit

Section 3313.603(L) – Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this section, the board of education of each school district and the governing authority of each chartered nonpublic school may adopt a policy to excuse from the high school physical education requirement each student who, during high school, has participated in interscholastic athletics, marching band, or cheerleading for at least two full sessions. If the board or authority adopts such a policy, the board or authority shall not require the student to complete any physical education course as a condition to graduate. However, the student shall be required to complete one-half unit, consisting of at least sixty hours of instruction, in another course of study.