

School board adopts new activity handbook

Written by Deb Egenberger

Thursday, 12 August 2010 21:18 -



Expectations, consequences get spelled out.

An integral piece of policy enforcement that has been missing at Brady Public Schools for several years has been reincarnated.

Brady students and parents are issued a handbook each fall which outlines the rules and consequences of everyday life at the school.

But the activities program has been without written guidelines for some time.

School board members approved a 15-page student-parent activity handbook during their regular monthly meeting Monday night.

The document outlines philosophy, code of conduct, sportsmanship and discipline for violations. It applies to all school activities.

Board member Marge Spencer said it has been many years since an activity handbook has been issued to participants and their parents.

It should help clear up questions concerning discipline for such things as drug and alcohol violations, she said, and set guidelines for other unacceptable behaviors.

All parents and student participants are required to acknowledge receipt of the document with a signature.

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The school board also approved an addendum to the regular student handbook to include discipline violations and consequences not previously printed.

The violations are divided into three levels ranging from inappropriate hallway or classroom behavior and tardiness to illegal offenses such as drug or alcohol use and assault.

Each level of offense carries more strict consequences from parental notification and detention to expulsion.

The addendum will be made to the 2010-11 handbook which is printed and distributed with the school calendar.

In other action, school board members made changes to graduation requirements that become effective with this year's freshman class and added policies after first reading concerning dating violence, registered sex offenders and job descriptions.

Graduation requirements increase from 240 credit hours to 250 with the addition of 10 credits or two more semesters of science.

The list of required classes also now specifies visual/performing arts, family and consumer sciences and industrial, manufacturing and engineering systems.

Credit hours for graduation were increased to meet new state requirements and to give graduates more of what they need for college entrance.

The dating violence and sex offender policies were precipitated by state statute, according to superintendent Bill Porter.

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The dating violence policy requires training for specific staff members to help reinforce positive behaviors and prevent inappropriate relationship patterns.

The sex offender policy outlines where and when registered sex offenders may be on school property and it allows for a waiver for special circumstances.

In other business, the board:

received \$250 from Jim Munson for use of the gymnasium for Sunday night basketball. Munson also told the board that after 25 years of running the adult program, he is handing over the duties to TJ Walker.

reaffirmed student fees and parental involvement policies following public hearings in which no one spoke.

learned the projected K-12 enrollment will be 210 students.

authorized a final order for laptop computers to be placed Sept. 1 for the one-to-one initiative to provide all 9-12 students with computers.

reviewed a proposal for a 60-foot by 60-foot bus barn to be built on the north end of the north parking lot and authorized Porter to request at least three bids for the project to determine if it is financially feasible.

heard from Porter that the Brady band has been invited to participate in the Nebraska State Fair parade on Aug. 28 in Grand Island with fair officials paying the cost of transportation.

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approved on second and final reading board policies concerning the superintendent's contract renewal, certified employee bereavement leave, student activity and academic awards, class rank and permission to publish school projects and student photos.

adopted compensation rates for activity workers including scorekeepers, scoreboard operators, line crews and junior high/junior varsity officials with pay ranging from \$5 per game to \$10 per game.

approved 12 days of vacation pay to hot lunch program supervisor Tammie Taullie totaling \$960.

voted to give support staff members an average pay raise of 3.5% for the coming school year. All support staff employees will not receive the same increase.