



## **SDMC Special Meeting Minutes**

**June 10, 2021 – 3:10 PM**

### **Members Present:**

Chavis Mitchell, Bryan Berry, Cecilia Allen, Elizabeth Benne, Eileen Hairel, Leslie Hokanson, Lisa Parasram, Priscilla Quiocho, Nimci Saravia, Desiree Slack, Tasha James, Eunice Terry

### **New Business:**

#### **Discussing Dress Code**

Mr. Mitchell began by sharing a copy of the uniform policy that was in place before Covid-19 lead the district to postpone dress codes for the 2020-2021 school year. Mr. Mitchell read over the policy and allowed the committee to read over the policy for a few minutes.

SDMC members began the conversation by asking what the arguments against the dress code were. Mr. Mitchell shared that flexibility, budgets, and outgrowing shorts/pants rapidly were some of the main concerns shared. Mr. Berry shared that as we are a music/fine arts magnet, students are able to better express themselves by the freedom to choose what they wear to school. SDMC members then shared the following perspectives and feedback:

- In favor of the current dress code - due to the fact that Parker is a Title 1 campus where uniforms help to eliminate concerns regarding economic inequality.
- With a dress code in place, free dress days are able to be used as a reward. Mr. Mitchell added that this is a way for PTO to raise money as well.
- 5<sup>th</sup> grade loves that it is an equalizer. They also have to have more conversations about what a student is wearing than they should. Students are arriving in shorts that are too short and tops that are too low and these conversations distract from their morning routine.
- Regarding kids growing out of clothes rapidly, this will happen regardless of a dress code. She shared personal experiences that she thought eliminated the need to cancel the policy.

Questions were asked:

- Is a district standard or if this is up to our campus? Mr. Mitchell stated that ultimately the district has shared that they will leave final dress code policies up to individual campuses. Ms. Benne asked if the performance uniform would still be in place. Mr. Mitchell said that it would still be in place regardless.
- Is this a question of removing all standards (i.e., would the dress-code be done away with completely) or whether this discussion is to change/update the current policy? Mr. Mitchell said

that he wants to know if the current policy is in good standing the way it is or if we need to make certain changes.

- Why not include sports teams on Fridays? Mr. Mitchell shared that it was in place to promote college readiness. Mr. Berry suggested adding high school and middle school shirts to be allowed on Fridays as well. Several SDMC members agreed.

The policy discussion continued:

- The color of denim was discussed. The committee agreed to specifying blue or black denim.
- A SDMC member brought up many wanting to allow athletic shorts and pants for boys and leggings for girls. For children that are atypically sized or shaped, athletic shorts are comfortable and practical. If we wanted to move in that direction of allowing solid black or navy athletic shorts it probably would not be noticeable. She suggested the same for leggings and asked if shirts could be slightly longer to cover bottoms. Mr. Mitchell replied that we do allow leggings, but that we require skirts to cover them.
- A SDMC member shared that watching kids move their bodies, especially in PE, in clothes that are comfortable, is very important, and watching students move in jeans or skirts is very different. She also shared that she understands the age span at our campus. There should not be anyone at school sexualizing anyone, and if that is happening that is a whole different thing. She cut out momentarily and gave another member permission to take over. She shared that having a dress code that embraces the student/scholar professional tone that we are setting is very important in some families and households but having something that is flexible is important as well.
- Another member added on to the conversation of leggings being worn as pants by sharing that some students are set up for unintentional attention to their bodies. A member asked if it would be reasonable to allow solid navy or solid black athletic shorts to be worn over leggings and for solid navy or solid black shorts to be allowed for students? Mr. Mitchell shared that he is willing to allow solid navy or solid black athletic shorts to be worn.
- A member asked if tan denim could be added to the dress code?
- Mr. Mitchell restated the suggestions that had been made regarding denim changes and athletic shorts and pants changes.
- A member brought up the concern that some parents have shared regarding fingertip length and finding appropriate clothing.
- A member suggested that leggings being worn under clothing may be a reasonable solution.
- The leggings conversation continued. A member asked why leggings could not be eliminated altogether? Another member shared an experience in PE where she observed a student in jeans that could not participate appropriately.
- The committee voted on whether leggings should be worn with or without covering (which includes athletic shorts). By a majority vote, the committee agreed that coverings would be required.
- The committee voted to allow solid navy and solid black athletic shorts.
- The committee voted to allow blue, black, or khaki denim.
- There was a conversation regarding if the policy should state that clothes must fit properly, but the committee agreed to handle these instances individually.

- The committee voted to allow middle school and high school shirts to be worn on Fridays as well as college shirts.
- The committee discussed the consequences listed on the policy. It suggested warnings being issued before conduct cuts are made, that chronic offenses may result in detention, that slips should go home with student warnings, that student should be sent back to class to wait for clothes to be brought for them, and that parents may be called to bring clothes for students who fail to adhere to the dress code policy. All committee members agreed to these statements
- A member asked about branding on sweatshirts and jackets and degree of strictness. Mr. Mitchell as well as other SDMC members who shared agreed that unless branding or wording was an unreasonable distraction, we would allow branding or wording (such as Old Navy) on sweatshirts and jackets.
- The committee summarized their decisions and adjourned.

**Meeting Adjourned:**

4:29 PM

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Minutes taken by Bryan Berry, edited by Eileen Hairel