

Conflict policy still a struggle

Written by Carol Pomeday
Wednesday, 30 December 2009 18:16

School Board to mull restrictions on members at Jan. 13 meeting

The Cedar Grove-Belgium School Board continues to struggle with a policy to govern conflicts of interest by board members.

A proposed policy, almost identical to one adopted by the Cedarburg School Board, has been sent back twice to the Curriculum and Policy Committee.

A revised policy will be considered by the School Board on Wednesday, Jan. 13.

The proposed policy would prohibit members from being a coach or advisor for any sports and activities sponsored by the school district.

It does not restrict board members from coaching sports or activities sponsored by a YMCA, clubs or organizations other than the school district even if they are held on district property.

A restriction that would have prohibited a member from serving on another elected board was removed because it is not legal, Supt. Steve Shaw said.

Board member Jeff Thiel is seeking election as a Village of Belgium trustee in addition to re-election as the Ozaukee County representative on the School Board.

The need for a policy was triggered by an incident this fall involving a fan and School Board President Les Paul while he was a volunteer assistant cross-country coach.

Paul was removed as an assistant coach by Shaw. The discipline was upheld by the School Board despite pleas from athletes and parents to be more lenient. Paul, who has two daughters on the team, continued to attend meets as a parent.

Last year, Paul was also a volunteer assistant track coach, something the proposed policy would prohibit.

The appointment of spring coaches was considered in closed session by the Personnel Committee. It will be discussed again in closed session at the Wednesday, Jan. 13, board meeting.

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At its Dec. 16 meeting, the committee recommended hiring Steve Moore as the head track coach but decided to readvertise for a softball coach, Shaw said.

Volunteer coaches must also be approved by the School Board.