

Garden Valley School District No. 71

PERSONNEL

5250

Certificated Staff Grievances

It is the Board's desire that administrative procedures for settling staff complaints and grievances be an orderly process within which solutions may be pursued. Further, that the procedure provide prompt and equitable resolution at the lowest possible administrative level. Additionally, it is the Board's desire that each employee be assured an opportunity for orderly presentation and review of complaints without fear of reprisal.

Grievance Definition

A grievance pursuant to this policy shall be a written allegation of a violation of Board approved District policies.

Grievance Procedure

All staff should use this grievance procedure if they believe that the Board, its employees or agents have violated their rights guaranteed by the State or federal constitution, State or federal statute, or Board policy.

The District will endeavor to respond to and resolve complaints without resorting to this grievance procedure and, if a complaint is filed, to address the complaint promptly and equitably. The right of a person to prompt and equitable resolution of the complaint filed hereunder shall not be impaired by the person's pursuit of other remedies. Use of this grievance procedure is not a prerequisite to the pursuit of other remedies, and use of this grievance procedure does not extend any filing deadline related to the pursuit of other remedies.

Level 1: Informal

A staff member with a complaint is encouraged to first discuss it with the teacher, counselor, or building administrator involved, with the objective of resolving the matter promptly and informally. An exception is that complaints of sexual harassment should be discussed with the first line administrator that is not involved in the alleged harassment.

If the complaint alleges a violation of Title IX, Title II, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, or sexual harassment, the principal shall turn the complaint over to the **Nondiscrimination Coordinator** who shall investigate the complaint. The District has appointed Nondiscrimination Coordinators to assist in the handling of discrimination complaints. The statement of grievance must be in writing and include times, dates, places and circumstances surrounding the allegation(s). The names of witnesses, if any, should be included in this statement.

The Coordinator will complete the investigation and file the report with the Superintendent within thirty (30) days after receipt of the written grievance. The Coordinator may hire an outside investigator if necessary. If the Superintendent agrees with the recommendation of the Coordinator, the recommendation will be implemented. If the Superintendent rejects the recommendation of the Coordinator, and/or either party is not satisfied with the recommendations from Level 2, either party may make a written appeal within fifteen (15) days of receiving the

report of the Coordinator to the Board for a hearing. The District will maintain a complete written record of each complaint, the manner in which it was investigated, and the manner in which it was resolved. Such records will be maintained pursuant to the District's record retention policy unless circumstances dictate that the file should be retained for a longer period of time. Written records, to the extent appropriate, will be maintained in a confidential manner in any affected employee's personnel file.

Level 2: Principal

If the complaint is not resolved at Level 1, the grievant may file a written grievance stating: 1) the nature of the grievance and 2) the remedy requested. It must be signed and dated by the grievant. The Level 2 written grievance must be filed with the principal within thirty (30) days of the event or incident, or from the date the grievant could reasonably become aware of such occurrence.

If the complaint alleges a violation of Board policy or procedure, the principal shall investigate and attempt to resolve the complaint. If either party is not satisfied with the principal's decision, the grievance may be advanced to Level 3 by requesting in writing that the Superintendent review the principal's decision. This request must be submitted to the Superintendent within fifteen (15) days of the principal's decision.

Level 3: Superintendent

Upon receipt of the request for review, the Superintendent shall schedule a meeting between the parties and the principal. The parties shall be afforded the opportunity to either dispute or concur with the principal's report. The Superintendent shall decide the matter within ten (10) days of the meeting and shall notify the parties in writing of the decision. If the Superintendent agrees with the recommendation of the principal, the recommendation will be implemented. If the Superintendent rejects the recommendation of the principal, the matter may either be referred to an outside investigator for further review or resolved by the Superintendent.

If either party is not satisfied with the decision of the Superintendent, the Board is the next avenue for appeal. A written appeal must be submitted to the Board within fifteen (15) days of receiving the Superintendent's decision. The Board is the policy-making body of the school, however, and appeals to that level must be based solely on whether or not policy has been followed. Any individual appealing a decision of the Superintendent to the Board bears the burden of proving a failure to follow Board policy.

Level 4: The Board

Upon receipt of a written appeal of the decision of the Superintendent, and assuming the individual alleges a failure to follow Board policy, the matter shall be placed on the agenda of the Board for consideration not later than their next regularly scheduled meeting. A decision shall be made and reported in writing to all parties within thirty (30) days of that meeting. The decision of the Board will be final.

Grievances will be processed according to the step-by-step process outlined in the Uniform Grievance Procedure 4120P, however, in the case where a person designated to hear a grievance is the subject of the grievance, the grievance process will begin at the next highest step and the

process shall be modified as needed to meet the objectives of the Grievance Procedure. If a grievance is directly based on official Board action, the grievance shall be directed to the Clerk of the Board. The grievance may be heard by the Board at the sole discretion of the Board.

Procedure History:

Adopted on: 2-13-2012

Revised on: 2-13-2018;10-15-2019

Reviewed on:10-1-2019