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## School board discusses updated clothing policy

*BY LESLIE BIXLER*  
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FREMONT -- The city's board of education discussed a proposed updated campus wear policy Monday night.

Parents, students and school staff were able to share thoughts on how the policy has worked so far with the middle school students.

According to the draft, the kindergarten-through-12th grade campus wear policy will begin next school year. Seniors graduating in 2011 will be excluded from this policy, and will have to follow the current policy in the high school student handbook.

Superintendent Traci McCaudy said the policy would not apply to preschool students.

Common themes in the surveys from parents, teachers and students at the middle school included not requiring belts, desire for more color choices, more free days and the need to work with vendors to have year-round campus wear clothing and larger sizes.

Ken Miller, PTO president for Fremont Middle School, said he has four children and is all for campus wear.

"I think it's a very good thing," he said, noting his son's grades have improved since he started wearing the clothing.

Julie Hammer, of Fremont, said she is a grandmother raising her grandchildren, and with children growing so much, it's hard to keep up with two sets of clothing -- the campus wear and street clothes.

Proposed changes from the current policy include requirements that clothing not be excessively tight or loose, and should not have slits, cuts, tears or frays. The draft says no "skinny" pants, and shirt colors are purple, white, black, gray and blue. T-shirts, which are to be worn under approved polos or Oxford shirts, can be purple, white, blue, black or gray.

Turtlenecks were also added, and need to be in those same colors. Belts would be optional.

Changes were also made for physical education attire for grades 7 through 12.

Board President Tim Ellenberger said the district will discuss the final draft at the Feb. 8 meeting and final approval will be Feb. 22. Meetings are at 6 p.m. in the Carr Lecture Lab on Cedar Street.