



Winona Area Public Schools
Board Operations Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes: January 26, 2023

Meeting Location:	High School Counseling Office Conference Room 901 Gilmore Ave, Winona, MN 55987
Meeting Start:	4:45 pm
Meeting End:	5:37 pm
Members Present:	Stephanie Smith Michael Hanratty Dr. Annette Freiheit Emily Solheid Kacie Lovas
Other Attendees:	Alexandra Retter, Winona Post
Members Absent:	

I. Review Upcoming Policies

- A. **Policy 101 Legal Status of the School District:** Dr. Freiheit presented this policy with legal reference and statute language changes. No other discussion. Ms. Smith and Mr. Hanratty recommended that the policy be added to the February 16, 2023 School Board agenda for first reading by the School Board.
- B. **Policy 101.1 Name of the School District:** Dr. Freiheit presented this policy with practice related language clarification changes, and parent/guardian clean up. No other discussion. Ms. Smith and Mr. Hanratty recommended that the policy be added to the February 16, 2023 School Board agenda for review by the School Board.
- C. **Policy 103 Complaints – Students, Employees, Parents, Other Persons:** Dr. Freiheit presented this policy with minor grammatical changes. Ms. Smith asked if we include information on this in our student handbooks. Dr. Freiheit made the suggestion to have John Casper include the link to the district website and form in the district-wide handbook currently being crafted. Ms. Smith and Mr. Hanratty recommended that the policy be added to the February 16, 2023 School Board agenda for first reading by the School Board.
- D. **Policy 403 Discipline, Suspension and Dismissal of School District Employees:** Ms. Solheid presented this policy with minor grammatical and legal reference changes. Ms. Smith and Mr. Hanratty recommended that the policy be added to the February 16, 2023 School Board agenda for first reading by the School Board.
- E. **Policy 506 Student Discipline, and WAPS Community Rights, Responsibilities, and Resources Manual (“The Winhawk Way”):** Dr. Freiheit presented this policy updates with the majority of the strikethroughs being shifted to the procedure manual “WAPS Community Rights, Responsibilities, and Resources” (Winhawk Way). The manual was also reviewed. Ms. Smith

asked for clarification on suggested resolutions and responses within the manual. She also requested the headers for each of the levels be on each page. Policy language on page 9 was suggested to incorporate into the manual for additional clarification. Ms. Smith and Mr. Hanratty recommended that the policy and manual be tabled pending DEI review on February 28, 2023, with any suggestions reviewed at Board Operations Committee on March 23, 2023

F. **Policy 611 Home Schooling:** In the absence of Ms. O'Brien who was excused from the meeting, Ms. Solheid presented this policy with legal reference changes. Ms. Smith and Mr. Hanratty recommended that the policy be added to the February 16, 2023 School Board agenda for first reading by the School Board.

G. **Policy 615 Testing Accommodations, Modifications, and Exemptions for IEPs, Section 504 Plans and LEP Students:** In the absence of Ms. O'Brien who was excused from the meeting, Ms. Solheid presented this policy with legal reference and statute language changes. No other discussion. Ms. Smith and Mr. Hanratty recommended that the policy be added to the February 16, 2023 School Board agenda for first reading by the School Board.

II. Follow-up from the January 4, 2023 Board Operations Committee Meeting:

A. **DEI Policy Information Update:** Dr. Freiheit presented an update on this policy review. Dr. Frieheir indicated that the DEI Committee has been reviewing several sections in small groups and has recommended that the Learning and Teaching and Human Resources department review the updates prior to going to the Board Operations Committee in February.

III. Follow-up from the January 19, 2023 School Board Meeting:

A. **Policy 606 Textbooks and Instructional Materials and Policy 606.1 Reconsideration of Textbooks or Other Instructional Materials:** Dr. Freiheit and Ms. Solheid brought to the committee's attention that there was a 606.1 developed in 2009, and the suggestion was to repeal this version, and include the suggested changes within the version brought to the board on January 19, 2023. It was also suggested that Jeremy Graves review the original policy and the proposed revised policy as the original was predominantly focused on library and media materials. Ms. Smith and Mr. Hanratty recommended that the policy be tabled until more feedback is available for the Board Operations Committee.

B. **Policy 503 Student Attendance:** Ms. Solheid presented some data from other Big 9 Schools (Albert Lea, Austin, Northfield, Red Wing, Rochester, Owatonna, Faribault, and Mankato) on their excused and unexcused absence reasons. 120A.22 Minnesota Statutes language was also referenced. Administration also contacted MSBA and legal counsel for an opinion and those responses were not yet available. Ms. Smith and Mr. Hanratty suggested tabling this discussion so that more research can be collected from the administrative team and legal counsel.

IV. Other:

A. **Policy 110 DEI Update:** Dr. Freiheit provided an update on the policy process. The suggestion was to have the Human Resources and Learning and Teaching departments review the sections pertaining to their department, with suggestions brought back to the next DEI Committee Meeting and Board Operations Committee Meeting.