

# Washington Central Unified Union School District

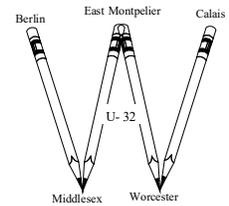
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*WCUUSD exists to nurture and inspire in all students the passion, creativity and power to contribute to their local and global communities.*

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Meagan Roy, Ed.D.  
Superintendent



## **WCUUSD Policy Committee Minutes 4.12.23 4:45-6:45 PM Central Office, 1130 Gallison Hill Rd. Montpelier Via Video Conference**

**Present:** Chris McVeigh, Natasaha Eckart, Superintendent Meagan Roy, Amy Molina, Michelle Ksepka, Jonathan Goddard, Maggie Weiss, Cat Fair

- 1. Call to Order: Superintendent Meagan Roy called the meeting to order at 4:53 p.m. Jonathan Goddard nominated Chris McVeigh as Chair of the Policy Committee. Seconded by Natasha Eckart, this motion carried.** Chris McVeigh invited comments or suggestions about ways to work as a committee, if there are any other ideas or ways folks would like to carry out the business differently going forward.
- 2. Approve Minutes of 1.11.23, 3.22.23: Jonathan Goddard moved to approve the minutes from January 11, 2023 and March 22, 2023. Seconded by Natasha Eckart. The January minutes were approved unanimously.** The March 22 “notes” were not official minutes, as a quorum was not present. They were not approved as minutes
- 3. Meeting Schedule:** Some discussion followed around the possibility of meeting at 5:00 versus 4:45. The committee agreed that a 4:45 start time works best, as it results in an earlier “end” time. The committee will consider a different date for the May meeting as Natasha can’t make the date that is on the calendar. Melissa Tuller will send out a poll to committee members to see if a different date in May can be agreed upon.
- 4. Review Policies:**
  - 4.1. District Equity Policy:** The Humanity and Justice Coalition has seen this policy twice. The notes from the coalition are highlighted in the policy draft. Natasha Eckart reviewed the changes to the policy draft, as a result of the Humanity and Justice Coalition’s input. Committee members discussed the language around “identities of each of us” and around “acknowledges and celebrates differences.” Natasha Eckart noted that this statement was created from the work with Shelley Vermilya, and she asked the board to consider whether wordsmithing is needed, after a lot of work and consideration had gone into forming the statement as it is. She reminded the

committee that the intent is to have this policy in place before the start of 2023-2024 school year. The committee agreed to run this policy as edited tonight, by Bernie Lambek for legal consideration. Some discussion followed around language in the policy which is high level and may not be accessible to all - for example the use of the word "commensurate." The committee considered words to substitute for "commensurate." Cat Fair suggested that the policy refer to the handbook, as this is a resource that administrators utilize when addressing issues related to equity. Some discussion followed around how the board would receive reporting data about the implementation of this policy. Superintendent Roy suggested that there be a schedule over the course of the year to report on each bulleted item in the implementation of the policy. Chris McVeigh stated that the bullet points in the policy draft are a framework for implementation of the policy. He asked how to prioritize the bullet points, which to address first (and report on first), and so on. Superintendent Roy will make changes to this policy based on the discussion tonight and she will run the draft by legal counsel as well as by the committee. Natasha Eckart reminded the committee that we had intended to share the policy draft with stakeholders. After Superintendent Roy updates and shares this draft, Natasha Eckart will disseminate to the various stakeholders and will ask for feedback in time for the next Policy Committee meeting. Chris McVeigh suggested that any stakeholder groups identify themselves in any of the edits or comments regarding the policy draft.

**4.2. C5 Weapons and Firearms:** Superintendent Roy shared that this policy has been to the board for consideration. The request from the board was to provide a "red lined" version for their consideration. The board had asked how it stays informed of violations to the policy in the cases that they are not brought to the board for a hearing. Superintendent Roy had recommended that verbiage be added in the body of the policy that refers to "Policy Implementation" around informing the board. Some discussion followed around discretion about instances regarding "intent" with dangerous weapons. She gave the example of a child who brought a knife to school for their apple at lunchtime. Maggie Weiss had asked about an instance where a student used a weapon to destroy property. She recalled that there had been discussion at the board level about having cumulative data related to weapons violations. Superintendent Roy suggested one way to report to the board would be periodically and regularly, in the same way that we report to the Secretary of Education. Michelle Ksepka stated that we report every behavior to the Agency of Education (in numbers, not in specific detail). Maggie Weiss noted that this means we already have access to this data, since we are already collecting for this annual report (for Agency of Education.) Superintendent Roy suggested there could be a report to the board for every violation of this policy that did not result in an expulsion hearing. Some discussion followed about whether it is sufficient to just get "numbers" for data versus the context - even a brief summary of the incident. Discussion followed around confidentiality and how to communicate this information. Superintendent Roy suggested: annual report of violations of the policy that resulted in expulsion hearing and the violations that did not. This could include the nature of the reasons for those that did not come to the board for a hearing. Chris McVeigh stated that it's not "just the numbers;" it's "the why" that is of interest to the board; her solution would address this concern. Superintendent Roy will edit the policy to add the language as discussed. Then the policy will go back to the full board for consideration. Jonathan

Goddard stated that he would also like to know what discipline results from incidents that do not reach the board; it would help the board consider: are we implementing this consistently? Superintendent Roy proposed a more regular presentation schedule for reporting to the board about happenings across WCUUSD related to systems of support for behavior, social/ emotional learning, etc. She noted that planning around this could be a retreat conversation. She believes this will help answer some of the questions about transparency. Natasha Eckart asked whether this data is being considered with administrators at each building, in the spirit of equity and consistency. Natasha Eckart stated that she heard that board members are wanting to know that the discipline procedures are being implemented equitably; however, in her mind this is why the board hired a superintendent and the board needs to trust the superintendent's discretion to some degree. Superintendent Roy will make edits as discussed to this draft and bring it to the WCUUSD Board.

**4.3. C20 Student Conduct:** (VSBA has updated its model policy) next meeting

**4.4. E20 Building Use:** Next meeting

**5. Future Agenda Items:**

**5.1.** May meeting TBD

**5.2.** Equity Policy

**5.3.** *Building Use (this has been checked by legal counsel) - this can go to WCUUSD Board for adoption.*

**5.4.** Student Conduct

**5.5.** Use of Restraint and Seclusion

**5.6.** June meeting

(move Nutrition to school year 2023-2024)

**6. Adjourn: The committee adjourned by consensus at 6:45 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Grace, Committee Recording Secretary