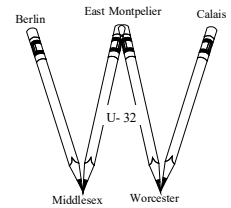


Washington Central Unified Union School District

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

1130 Gallison Hill Road
Montpelier, VT 05602
Phone (802) 229-0553
Fax (802) 229-2761

Meagan Roy, Ed.D.
Superintendent



**WCUUSD Policy Committee
Meeting Minutes Approved
11.15.22 8:30-10:30 AM
Central Office, 1130 Gallison Hill Rd. Montpelier
Via Video Conference**

Present: Superintendent Meagan Roy, Amy Molina, Chris McVeigh, Michelle Ksepka, Natasha Eckart Baning, Cat Fair

- 1. Call to Order:** Chris McVeigh called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.
- 2. Approve Minutes of 10.12.22:** Natasha Eckart Baning moved to approve the minutes of October 12, 2022. Seconded by Chris McVeigh, this motion carried unanimously. No changes to the agenda were noted. Superintendent Roy suggested that we review the work plan and consider policies associated with physical security (e.g. cameras in buildings.)
- 3. Review Policies**
 - 3.1. F2: Non- Discriminatory Mascots & Branding:** The committee reviewed the model policy from VSBA. Chris McVeigh suggested incorporating a process for review or a timeline for review for this policy. Superintendent Roy indicated that she would support reviewing the policy before the end of the school year. Some discussion followed about the language in this model policy; question about procedure within the policy. Chris McVeigh suggested “tightening the language” around the “Complaints” portion in the policy. Amy Molina stated that she does not believe we have a mascot currently that would fit into the concerns within this policy; she wonders whether we are spending a lot of time and energy on crafting a policy around something that does not apply? Chris McVeigh stated that he thinks it is important to adopt a policy with some clarity, rather than “backfilling” should issues come up in the future. Discussion around the language “the board *shall* hear the complaint...” Natasha Eckart Baning stated that the timeframe within complaint is vague in the language of the draft policy; she would like to flesh out the timeframe between having a hearing and rendering a decision. Amy Molina wonders if the timeline is extended to allow for community forums, legal input, etc. Superintendent Roy suggested, in terms of the timeline, she feels that 30 days is a reasonable compromise for the board to schedule a hearing, logistically - based on experience, it can be challenging to schedule a board meeting for hearings.

Natasha Eckart Baning stated that there is a process/ procedure in place, for example, around the topic of “flags.” She wonders if it would make sense to create a similar process/ procedure for this topic. Chris McVeigh suggested scheduling the hearing at the time of the next regularly scheduled board meeting. Some discussion followed around whether it is necessary to have a timeframe for when the board has a hearing - i.e. the timeline can indicate when the board renders a decision, but not the hearing. Superintendent Roy suggested that “within 30 days” seems like a practical time frame for the board to hold a hearing; then denote a timeframe for the board to render a decision after the hearing. She noted that the board typically comes to a decision at the hearing. Chris McVeigh asked whether the committee would like to bring it to the board as a whole to discuss the time frame questions, both around when to hold a hearing and when to render a decision. Michelle Kssepka noted that this policy is included in the board packet and on the agenda for the next board meeting. The committee agreed to bring this to the board later this week for discussion around these issues.

- 3.2. **C13: Students Who Are Homeless:** Superintendent Roy noted that this is an update to VSBA’s required policy; the updates reflect McKinney Vento. She noted that the law is fairly straightforward. Chris McVeigh suggested designating the liaison and the contact information for the liaison; Superintendent Roy indicated that the liaison is Kerra Holden, which is typical (the Director of Student Services designated as liaison). Superintendent Roy stated that another piece of the work plan is to create a time frame for reports to the board around some of these policies. She will include a report to the board in the December Superintendent written report.
- 3.3. **C5: Weapons and Firearms:** Chris McVeigh thanked Amy Molina for working on this first draft. Chris McVeigh had written some notes on the draft policy; he reviewed the notes with the committee for their consideration and discussion. Some discussion around differentiating between “firearms” and others. Amy Molina indicated that regardless of whether it is, e.g. a gun or a grenade, that is the level at which an expulsion hearing is implemented. “Destructive device” will be included in the language of the policy, along with “firearm.” Dangerous weapon: Swiss army knife blade falls under this category according to the length in the policy. Some discussion followed around whether this should be included in “non-dangerous weapon” or “dangerous weapon.” Superintendent Roy indicated that this policy would allow discretion from the administration, and that maybe the length of the weapon is not necessarily an indicator. Amy Molina stated that kids shouldn’t have knives at all, but the discretion from the administration should be how long was the blade, what type of weapon, what was the intention, etc. There was some discussion to end the sentence after “folding knife” and eliminate verbiage around the length of the knife. Chris McVeigh asked, do we mean to allow for discretion for anything that is not considered a destructive device? The discretion is around determining whether the item is a “dangerous weapon.” Chris McVeigh indicated that this is a significant departure from what we have had; do we want to include language in the policy to indicate this? Superintendent Roy stated that she feels this is made clear in the definitions. Natasha Eckart Baning stated that she believes this is a good direction for this policy. She feels

that adding more language will make it more confusing. She suggested having someone read it without the context of this committee discussion to see if the intent is clear. Chris McVeigh suggested asking Jonas Eno-Van Fleet to read the draft. Superintendent Roy suggested that the version resulting from today's discussion will not be ready for the board's consideration at tomorrow's meeting. Chris McVeigh suggested removing this from the board agenda tomorrow and wait until we have an updated draft. The committee agreed to this.

- 3.4. **A1: Board Conflict of Interest:** Superintendent Roy stated that this policy is up for review; there are no new updates or changes. Cat Fair stated, generally, there is not a compliance piece or a responsibility to board members to be sure that they are familiar with this policy. She spoke about "compulsory training" for staff and wonders whether some similar mechanism can be in place. Superintendent Roy stated that there is very little mechanism or accountability measure to cause board members to agree to a Code of Ethics. It is a suggestion, an acknowledgement that this is best practice; but she is not sure there is a way to create policy around this. (Based on her experience in the past, at other districts.) Cat Fair asked whether this is a position statement or a policy? Michelle Ksepka noted that this policy the committee is considering is slightly different from the VSBA model policy. Some discussion followed around the topic of board learning and board training as part of the board work plan. Natasha Eckart Banning shared that she has had experience with this board where board members recuse themselves due to conflict of interest, so she believes this board is cognizant of this. Superintendent Roy suggested at the next Policy Committee meeting, comparing the VSBA model policy with this current iteration, with the benefit of past board members taking part in the discussion. The committee, including administration, agreed to discuss this further at a future meeting.
- 3.5. **Building Access Policy:** Chris McVeigh noted that he had suggested changes to the policy because two of the towns in WCUUSD have easements in place. He explained some of the easements, for example, in Middlesex. He stated that these easements create different scenarios for the context of this policy. Amy Molina suggested moving the statement about an easement to one place in the scope of the policy. Chris McVeigh stated, though, that if the principal's discretion goes against the language in the easement, it is not acceptable. Superintendent Roy suggested asking the board as a whole what are their thoughts on this language. Amy Molina suggested some language to clarify under category 4; the committee agreed that this helps to clarify. The committee agreed that this policy is not yet ready for review by the board. Discussion followed - whether to include "rate sheet" in procedure and not in the body of the policy. Superintendent Roy indicated that she feels the "rate sheet" should be consistent among the elementary schools.

4. Public Comments: none

5. **Future Agenda Items:** Natasha Eckart Baning asked, when do items move from future agenda items to the actual agenda? Superintendent Roy stated that the next policy committee meeting agenda (in December) includes the following two:

- 5.1. **Anti-Racism**

- 5.2. **Humanity and Justice Statement**

Natasha Eckart Baning shared that she had attended a training last week about the work of the school board through the lens of equity. She is excited to focus on this topic.

Superintendent Roy asked whether there is a slide deck (from the training) or a model policy or some other items to frame the discussion at the next committee meeting (e.g., the committee typically does its work by considering and discussing policy drafts.) Natasha Eckart Baning will share a resource that can be included as part of the Policy Committee packet for next month.

Surveillance Cameras: Amy Molina shared that we do not currently have policy referring to surveillance cameras. VSBA has a model policy but it does not specifically speak to cameras on buses. Superintendent Roy will add this to the work plan in January and in the meantime Amy Molina will try to gather some resources from other school policies around this topic. Cat Fair stated that we should also check the language in the transportation contract.

6. **Adjourn: The committee adjourned by consensus at 9:57.**

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Grace, Committee Recording Secretary