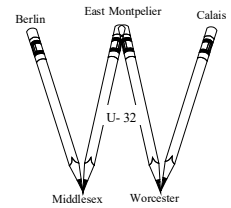


# Washington Central Unified Union School District

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

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Jennifer Miller-Arsenault  
Interim Superintendent



**WCUUSD Policy Committee  
Meeting Minutes Approved  
6.7.22 4:30-6:30 PM  
Central Office, 1130 Gallison Hill Rd. Montpelier  
Via Video Conference**

**Present:** Jen Miller-Arsenault, Mark Kline, Michelle Ksepka, Chris McVeigh, Dennis Hill

- 1. Call to Order: Chris McVeigh called the meeting to order at 4:33.**
- 2. Approve Minutes of 5.24.22: Dennis Hill moved to approve the minutes of May 24, 2022. Seconded by Chris McVeigh, this motion carried unanimously.**
- 3. Review Policies:** Jen Miller-Arsenault stated that she had gotten a response from Scott Cameron this morning - she shared the email and the committee discussed.
  - 3.1. C1 Education Record:** Michelle Ksepka explained the difference between a student's cumulative file, their special education file, and the test protocols which are not kept in the permanent special education file. Chris McVeigh asked, are people being notified of what is kept in each file? Not necessarily to make them available, but to make it known that these are kept. The policy does not speak directly to copying records - we had raised the issue during discussion. Jen Miller-Arsenault suggested that if we need a procedure for copying records, we could develop a procedure. She also spoke about the need to redact information at times (e.g. if another student's name is on a record). Chris McVeigh suggested that we find out from a legal standpoint, is there anything that indicates that you cannot copy student records? If there isn't, then we could develop a procedure. Jen Miller-Arsenault will reach back out to Scott Cameron. Dennis Hill reviewed the language in the policy that indicates "only as permitted by law" - he feels that this covers concerns around some of the legal implications that have been discussed. This policy will go for first reading, while we investigate information regarding procedure from Scott Cameron.
  - 3.2. C14 Section 504 Grievance Protocol for Students & Staff:** Scott Cameron had answered the question about "adult" - whether this refers to adult employee or adult in general. He does not think there is a distinction. Regarding "may" versus "shall" - Scott Cameron had advised that we can use the word "shall," as discussed. This policy will go for first reading, with the change in language (to "shall.")
  - 3.3. B5 Prevention of Employee Harassment:** Scott Cameron had suggested some wording to replace the "sexual" harassment" in this policy (to make it more broad than sexual harassment.)

The VSBA model policy had provided verbiage about training - this had brought up questions. Scott Cameron had suggested verbiage which included “sexual harassment and other forms of unlawful harassment.” Committee members agreed to this change in language. Chris McVeigh noted that the language could be considered redundant; however, there is a separate training for sexual harassment, so stating both makes sense. Chris McVeigh asked, is “unlawful harassment” too limiting? Dennis Hill noted that he believes this policy refers to the protected categories, and that any movement away from that could create a “slippery slope,” and that he suggests we stay with the language that had been suggested. This policy will go for first reading, with the change in language as proposed (re: Scott Cameron’s verbiage around harassment).

- 3.4. School Access:** Chris McVeigh stated that we have looked at the model policy from VSBA; it is broader than easements, which is prompting this consideration; he believes the two districts that have easements in place would trump this policy; however, a draft policy will be available for the next meeting.

#### **4. Future Agenda Items**

- 4.1. School Choice:** Jen Miller-Arsenault shared that we are beginning to get requests related to school choice - these come to the board on a case by case basis. She thinks it will be helpful to have a school choice policy, in preparation for next spring, which is when requests start coming in. She feels that, without a policy, this makes the work of the board difficult. Parents (of elementary students) typically write a letter to the principal or superintendent, and the board makes a decision on a case by case basis. Jen Miller-Arsenault explained that the middle school and high school have firm policies in place about school choice. Chris McVeigh asked whether any of the protocols that are already in place, regarding middle or high school students, would be applicable for considering elementary aged students, to help with a starting point for creating a policy. Jen Miller-Arsenault explained that school choice for elementary age kids is not comparable to middle and high school students. Chris McVeigh asked, should this work be driven by a particular concern? He noted that this has come up in the past, - if we are one district, should every student have a choice within the district? He noted that the theory can fall flat in practice; he asked, what could be the “third rail” for this policy? Dennis Hill noted that it wouldn’t take much (even rumor) to start a stampede from one school to the other - he noted that there are extenuating circumstances; however he acknowledged that it could open the floodgates. He also spoke about sports teams and the desire to move from school to school based on something like sports teams or coaches, etc. Chris McVeigh noted that we had surveyed the communities in the past. There were a variety of responses from “why not?” to “why would anyone want to do this?” Michelle Ksepka will share the survey responses.

#### **4.2. Anti-Racism**

**4.3. Humanity and Justice Statement:** The Humanity and Justice Coalition meets for the last time tomorrow; Jen Miller-Arsenault stated that Natasha Eckart Baning is taking the lead on this; the coalition will be asking whether it wishes to continue its work next year. She will follow up with the committee via email once she hears from Natasha Eckart Baning. The WCUUSD board does not meet until August (after the next meeting); the committee agreed to wait to meet until the second Tuesday of August.

**5. Adjourn: The committee adjourned by consensus at 5:15 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa Grace  
Committee Recording Secretary