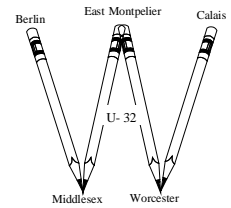


Washington Central Unified Union School District

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

Jennifer Miller-Arsenault
Interim Superintendent



WCUUSD Policy Committee Minutes 4.12.22 4:30-6:30 PM Central Office, 1130 Gallison Hill Rd. Montpelier Via Video Conference

Present: Chris McVeigh, Jonathan Goddard, Dennis Hill, Jen Miller-Arsenault, Amy Molina, Michelle Ksepka, Kerra Holden, Mark Kline

- 1. Call to Order:** Chris McVeigh called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.
- 2. Approve Minutes of 3.8.22:** Dennis Hill moved to approve the minutes of March 8, 2022. **Seconded by Jonathan Goddard, this motion carried unanimously.**
- 3. Use of School Property:** Chris McVeigh had shared a memo earlier in the day for the committee's consideration. A proposal had been shared from a Middlesex resident to use part of the Rumney School property to grow an apple orchard. Chris invited committee members to weigh in. Jen Miller-Arsenault shared the context for this discussion. Some discussion followed around the use of school property, for example, for gardens and a greenhouse, and/ or the use of school property for a communal purpose. Michelle Ksepka shared that there are building use permission forms in existence. Her worry is around liability. Dennis Hill expressed concern about allowing school property for private citizens' use; he fears that this is opening a can of worms related to liability, legal issues, perpetuity, etc. Amy Molina reiterated Dennis's concerns around the issue of, for example, perpetuity, based on her experiences over the years. She made a connection with some events in the past, though, when people have helped to improve the property (for example an athletic field); in essence it is "crowdsourcing" in a way that adds value to the school facilities. Chris McVeigh would like to create a policy that provides access and use but sets criteria so that it is not wide open. Jonathan Goddard suggested that there may be a middle ground, akin to the "flag" procedure that was recently created, that allows people to come to the board and make a case, and let the board decide (rather than create a policy.) Jonathan Goddard suggested that we would ask, is this consistent with our mission and vision of the district? As it relates to the request for using the school property. Jen Miller-Arsenault asked the committee to consider the use of the time and resources and bandwidth of the board on making such determinations, at this time. Chris McVeigh suggested that we put this aside and address it at the next meeting to see if any ideas have percolated or whether it deems further discussion.

4. New Policies

4.1. C14 Section 504 and ADA Grievance Protocol for Students and Staff: Michelle Ksepka asked Kerra Holden if she had any thoughts about this policy. Kerra Holden shared that she envisions that Carla Messier in HR would be designated 504 coordinator for staff and that she herself would be designated 504 coordinator related to students. Jen Miller-Arsenault suggested that the committee does not need to designate who the 504 coordinators are; just review the policy. Some discussion followed around whether 504 plans relate to students only, whereas workplace accommodations for staff members may not fall under the umbrella of 504. Dennis suggested that this might be something to refer to the WCUUSD attorney for clarification. Michelle Ksepka also noted that “504 complaint form” is referenced in the policy but she does not have access to the form. Amy Molina brought up the timeline that is delineated in the policy (referring to August in-service). Chris McVeigh suggested that we follow up on what is the reasoning for this verbiage. Kerra suggested adding the language to “discriminated against” (add “based on their disability outlined in their 504...”.) Chris McVeigh asked if there is presently a policy that addresses discrimination based on disability; Amy Molina shared that we have a separate non-discrimination policy. Jen Miller-Arsenault wonders why this is a required policy; Amy wonders whether this is an actual policy or whether it is more of a procedure. A suggestion was made to separate into two separate protocols - one for 504 and one for ADA. Kerra stated that she is curious what the actual intention is of the policy, specifically around the mention of co-curricular activities. Some discussion followed around whether there have been cases in the past when a complaint is made related to discrimination based on disability. Chris suggested that we get some clarification around some of the issues that were discussed (including legal counsel if needed) and then revisiting at the next meeting.

5. Required Policies Updated by the VSBA

5.1. C1 Education Record: Chris McVeigh asked, do we already do these things? Jen Miller-Arsenault stated that she believes we do what is named in this policy, but she believes the intent is to make it clear so we are sure to follow protocol. Chris McVeigh asked whether file cabinets for student records are fire proof. Michelle Ksepka stated that she is not sure. Kerra Holden noted that there are cases where parents are not allowed to take records home or duplicate records; in some cases they can review records at school with a person present but can't make copies and take home. She wonders whether this should be clarified in the policy. The committee agreed to add the language: Some student records cannot be copied and can only be evaluated in the presence of the custodian of records or designee, on school grounds. Jen Miller -Arsenault would like to get legal counsel before changing the language in the policy. Chris McVeigh agreed that if legal counsel has no objection to the language that we have added, then this policy can go to the board for first reading.

5.2. C7 Student Attendance: Some discussion followed around the definitions in this policy. The topic of students experiencing homelessness and the McKinney-Vento Act was discussed. Chris McVeigh noted that we had worked on a policy excusing student absences for religious purposes. Discussion followed around excused absences, besides medical reasons. Michelle Ksepka shared that if a case goes to court related to truancy, only medical-related absences are excluded from truancy. Chris McVeigh asked for clarification about the term “educational neglect.” Dennis Hill explained that it refers to parent or

guardian, for example, if they are not being responsible for getting their child to school. This policy will go to the board for first reading, as written.

5.3. C8 Pupil Privacy Rights: Michelle Ksepka noted some of the substantive changes in this version of the policy. Amy Molina clarified, regarding parents having access to surveys - this refers to accessing the survey but not the child's responses to the survey. Some discussion followed about policy C32 regarding 18 year old students. Students can opt out when they reach age 18, to designate that their records and communication go to them as opposed to their parents. Chris McVeigh stated that he does not think the language in this policy is consistent with that practice. Dennis Hill stated that he believes when a child turns 18 they become their own legal guardian and in order for communication to continue with the parents, the student would be required to provide consent to do so. That is not necessarily practice, though, as schools try to maintain open communication with students' parents. Kerra noted that she believes FERPA indicates that rights transfer to the student when they turn 18. Amy Molina shared that the model policy from VSBIT indicates that students may take action to opt out of sharing with their parents (but that it is not automatic.) Some discussion followed around what would constitute "invasive" procedures. This policy will be reconsidered by this committee at the next meeting, after we get some clarification around the issues related to privacy of students turning 18.

6. Future Agenda Items

6.1. School Choice

6.2. Humanity & Justice (would they like to join us at our next meeting to begin discussion? Jen Miller-Arsenault will check.)

6.3. "School Access"

7. Adjourn: The committee adjourned by consensus at 6:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Grace, Committee Recording Secretary