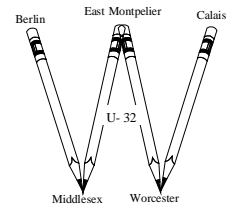


Washington Central Unified Union School District

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 3.8.22 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, Aaron Boynton, Amy Molina, Michelle Ksepka

- 1. Call to Order: Jen Miller-Arsenault called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m. Dennis Hill moved to appoint Chris McVeigh as chair of the Policy Committee. Seconded by Jonathan Goddard, this motion carried unanimously.**
- 2. Approve Minutes of 2.8.22: Chris McVeigh moved to approve these minutes as presented. This motion carried unanimously.**
- 3. Develop Policy Committee Work Plan:** Dennis Hill asked, what is the mechanism for a policy coming to this committee? Chris McVeigh explained that we continue to update policies according to how old they are, as well as to consider policies according to current issues as they arise. Introductions were made. Jen Miller-Arsenault shared that Michelle Ksepka had set up a system for the committee to consider policies. The two had worked together to prioritize the list. Chris McVeigh suggested beginning with required policies, having three or four on each agenda, and having Jen and Michelle provide their prioritized list. Chris will meet with Jen and Michelle to create a prioritized list and a work plan for the year ahead.
- 4. Review Policies**
 - 4.1. C5 Weapons/Firearms:** Jen Miller-Arsenault shared that the current firearms policy is based on federal law. The VSBA is currently working on a separate policy (C20) that addresses weapons. She suggests that the committee wait until the VSBA's model policy is ready for consideration, so the committee can consider both, a Firearms policy and a policy (C20) dealing with student conduct, which will include weapons (except firearms). In the meantime she suggests that we keep these policies in place "as is." Chris McVeigh had shared information with the committee to discuss when considering student conduct (e.g. substance violations or weapons, aggression, etc.) - the topic of accumulation of "infractions," and how far back the data should reach. For the purpose of expulsion, he suggested that infractions further back beyond two years should not be included in the consideration. Dennis Hill stated that he supports discussing this and possibly considering exceptions to the rule, etc. Michelle Ksepka noted that the VSBA is currently updating this policy and she suggests that we wait to consider these changes, until the VSBA has provided a model. Jonathan Goddard spoke about circumstances when there have been threats of

violence with a weapon; he thinks this might be an exception, and in this case, infractions from further back might be appropriate to consider. Some discussion followed around expulsions or other discipline cases that come before the board. Jen Miller-Arsenault suggested that the updated policies will address some of the issues that are being discussed tonight; and that she feels to this date, addressing many of these incidents on a case-by-case basis has worked. She suggested that what we are doing, for the most part, is working. She stated that she feels that a relative increase recently in behavior incidents has more to do with the stress on the system as a whole, rather than reflecting our policies being inadequate. Chris McVeigh suggested, what if the behavior that we put the “two year” limit onto was related to possession of drugs or alcohol? Dennis Hill suggested that it is important to give the board the discretion, with input from the administration, and some of the specifics could be worked out in procedure. He would like to focus on providing support and treatment when it comes to addressing drug and alcohol violations. The committee agreed to reconsider this language when the VSBA policy C20 is ready for consideration. Jonathan Goddard suggested that we can add verbiage that indicates that the board can, at its discretion, request information from prior similar incidents. He thinks that the school administration does a great job bringing information to the board in cases where discipline comes to the board, and that while the board usually accepts the administration’s recommendation, this is not always the case. Jen Miller-Arsenault suggested that what she is hearing is that the board would like to be made aware of relevant factors related to supportive measures/ history of what has been put in place. She can incorporate that into the template that is used when student discipline cases are brought to the board.

- 4.2. Honoring Policy:** Chris McVeigh stated that, based on board discussion, he gathered that more specificity is desired related to this policy. Dennis Hill expressed that he is always wary of unknown or unforeseen bits of history or background that could come back around and reflect controversially on the board or the school, where they honor a person. He spoke about the idea of doing a thorough background check to avoid this situation, but that would be intrusive and may not be appropriate/ may be a violation of privacy. Chris McVeigh stated that one of the components of this policy is that a petition would need to come to the board. He suggested adding verbiage like “the person who is to be honored would need to consent to a background check.” Amy Molina shared what she had heard from colleagues around the country. She stated that most people have reported that they are discussing and struggling with this, as well. She shared that one colleague had shared that they are considering offering an open time period where people could provide feedback (even anonymous feedback) when a situation is proposed to honor someone. Aaron Boynton shared that as he has given it thought, he leans more toward not favoring the practice of honoring people by naming buildings or things after them. He stated that we need to decide where we are willing to spend our time and energy and that this might be something that takes undue time and energy. Jonathan Goddard stated that he is more in favor of putting a plaque by a tree or a bench or some other living thing, rather than naming a building or another entity after someone. Amy Molina suggested honoring people in ways that are less permanent and less grandiose; she noted some of the traditions from the past, such as banners in the gymnasium. The committee agreed, going forward, to recommend a policy that there is no naming parts of the building or facilities after individuals, but we may opt to honor them in some other way (recognizing that, e.g. the track has already been named but that was under a different board.) Jen Miller-Arsenault suggested bringing this to the board for consideration.

4.3. Equity Policy: Jen Miller-Arsenault shared that the Humanity and Justice Coalition had met last week and will meet again tomorrow. They have not yet begun work on the policy; she would like to see the coalition work together with the policy committee to draft an equity policy. She will have more information after the meeting tomorrow.

5. Future Agenda Items

- 5.1.** E1 Title I, Part A: Parent and Family Engagement
- 5.2.** Drug and Alcohol Policy
- 5.3.** C29 District Equity Policy
- 5.4.** Antiracism Policy

6. Adjourn: This meeting adjourned by consensus at 5:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Grace, Committee Recording Secretary