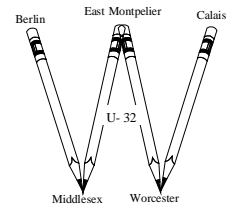


Washington Central Unified Union School District

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 Minutes 11.9.21 4:30-5:30 PM Central Office, 1130 Gallison Hill Rd. Montpelier Via Video Conference

Present: Chris McVeigh, Scott Thompson, Mark Kline, Lindy Johnson, Michelle Ksepka, Amy Molina, Jen Miller-Arsenault

- 1. Call to Order:** Chris McVeigh called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.
- 2. Approve Minutes of 10.12.21:** Lindy Johnson moved to approve the minutes of October 12, 2021. Seconded by Scott Thompson, this motion carried unanimously.
- 3. Review Policies**
 - 3.1. D7 Special Education (New VSBA Required policy 10/11/21):** Scott Thompson spoke about the idea of having a Special Education Parent Advisory Committee. He asked those present whether they have any recollection of why the board had never gotten on board with such a committee in the past. Lindy Johnson stated that she thinks this falls within the realm of the Director of Special Education. Chris McVeigh suggested that as a board we might be able to create the committee or the council and then leave the implementation to the Director of Special Education; e.g. we could create the parameters/ scope of the committee. Michelle Ksepka expressed concerns related to FERPA. She suggested that Kerra Holden be present to discuss this. Lindy Johnson agreed that having Kerra present to discuss this would be her preference. Scott Thompson offered to share information that already exists around such councils/ committees. Some of the concerns, e.g. related to FERPA, have been ironed out. He suggested that we keep this as an agenda item if committee members want to discuss this in the future. Lindy Johnson reminded him that this was not on tonight's agenda though. He noted that it is related to special education.
Amy Molina suggested that it seems similar to the Equity/ Diversity work that is underway. She wondered whether it is appropriate for Scott to share the information that he has, with Kerra Holden; she is not sure it is within the purview of the Policy Committee. Scott Thompson suggested sharing the information not only with Kerra Holden but with the other committee members. Lindy Johnson suggested it be on the board agenda for discussion. Scott Thompson will gather more information to share;

he indicated that Marylynn Strahan would be a good resource. This topic will go on a future board agenda, with Kerra Holden's input.
Discussion of D7: Scott Thompson spoke about the concept of "least restrictive environment." Amy Molina explained this in the context of special education

regulations. Scott Thompson suggested that when referring to IDEA in paragraph 2, we insert “the federal...” to make it clear that this is federal rather than state law. He also suggested inserting a link in the policy to “VT Special Education Procedures and Practices Manual.” Chris McVeigh suggested referencing this document but not including a live link within the policy. Lindy Johnson would like to locate this document and reference it in the policy as well as providing a link or download on the WCUUSD website. Chris McVeigh would like to have clarification around the statement “The SU will use the guidelines...” Is this a requirement? Is there an option to use a different guideline? Jen Miller-Arsenault will check with Kerra Holden. The committee will recommend this policy to the board at the next board meeting for a first reading, with the changes as noted this evening.

3.2. Work Plan for remainder of FY 21-22: Scott Thompson asked Jen Miller-Arsenault for some input about work for the committee for the rest of the school year, given the current state and other competing issues/ challenges. She suggested for a few months, to slow down the work of the Policy Committee. She has worries about the capacity to do the work well right now. She would prefer to work on the most urgent/ high priority issues of the committee and focus on COVID-19, e.g. getting children vaccinated. Scott Thompson and Lindy Johnson expressed support for her sentiment. Jen Miller-Arsenault suggested starting with the VSBA required policies and check against our current policies, and then look at “recommended” policies and do the same. Chris McVeigh asked, given that approach going forward this year, that she alert the committee when and if there are any burgeoning issues that would require the work of the policy committee. She will ask the Leadership Team to help her determine that. She thanked the board for supporting her suggestion to slow down the pace of the work of the committee right now.

4. Future Agenda Items

- 4.1.** E1 Title I, Part A: Parent and Family Engagement (Updated 9/24/21)
- 4.2.** C4 English Learners (Updated 12/21/20)
- 4.3.** C5 Firearms (Updated 12/9/20)
- 4.4.** B5 Employee Unlawful Harassment (Updated 10/20/20)
- 4.5.** Anti-Racism
- 4.6.** Commitment to Humanity and Justice Statement

5. Adjourn: The committee adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Stoudt, Committee Recording Secretary