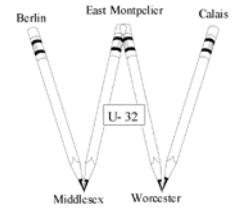


Washington Central Unified Union School District

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 Meeting Minutes Approved 10.12.21 4:30-6:30 p.m. ** VIA Video Conference

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

- 1. Call to Order:** Chris McVeigh called the meeting to order at 4:31 p.m.
- 2. Approve Minutes of 9.14.21:** Lindy Johnson moved to approve the minutes of September 14, 2021. Seconded by Scott Thompson, this motion carried unanimously.
- 3. Review Policies:** Chris McVeigh asked committee members whether they had taken a look at the policies below through the lens of the VSBA model policies, and whether there are any comments or discussion. Mark Kline suggested looking at the Secretary of State's requirements for records retention to compare with the VSBA model. He suggested that some of the explicit details be considered procedure versus within the language of the policy. He suggests, at the next committee meeting, providing some guidelines from the Secretary of State, and some suggestions as to which might be considered as procedure, versus policy.
 - 3.1. B8 Electronic Communication Between Employees and Students:** Chris McVeigh suggested some language changes: under III.A.3. add "past, current, or future..."
IV.A. add "student communications that violate this..."
IV.B. move "promptly" to "the student or the student's parent or guardian should promptly submit..."
Some discussion followed around whether there should be language around prohibiting retaliation in this policy. There was agreement that such language exists in other policies. Jen Miller-Arsenault stated that she feels we have already covered retaliation in other policies.
Amy Molina suggested adding "or resulting retaliation" to the last sentence in IV.B. Ellen Knoedler suggested referencing the policy that already exists which addresses retaliation, in the body of this policy.
Scott Thompson stated that the policy regarding retaliation is B40, and that it seems to apply only to staff, not students. He agreed with Amy Molina that it would be a good idea to add her suggested verbiage to this policy. The committee agreed that this policy, as edited tonight, is ready to go to the board for first reading.
 - 3.2. D3 District Take Home Device:** Mark Kline noted that the board had approved a different Policy D3, which is a required policy. He suggests that a different policy number be used for District Take Home Device Policy. Lindy Johnson stated that much of the District Take

Home Device policy as provided, seems to be more “procedural” versus policy. If this is meant to be policy, then it would be a departure from how we have done things in the past. Michelle Ksepka agreed that much of this draft: District Take Home Device and Personal Device policy is procedural. She stated that we already have a technology use agreement. Amy Molina explained her understanding is that this is much like the Bullying, Hazing and Harassment overlap. She thinks this can be a procedural document. Scott Thompson reiterated the idea that this landscape continues to change and evolve and that he agrees we should keep much of the changeable issues within procedure so that they can change along with technological advances. He suggested that procedural changes be updated to the board, e.g., every six months, so that the board can be kept abreast of procedural changes since *policy* creation is within the purview of the board, not procedural details. Chris McVeigh stated that there are some details that need to be included in the body of the policy to give it some “teeth.” Michelle Ksepka asked whether turning over devices is already covered in the “Search and Seizure” policy. Some discussion followed around the difference between students and staff, and personal versus school devices. Chris McVeigh suggests that the policy include a clear statement so that people are well-forewarned. Michelle Ksepka also noted that students do sign an Acceptable Use Agreement. Jen Miller-Arsenault stated that she believes these issues are covered in the existing policy D3. Chris McVeigh asked committee members whether they believe that students are affirmatively made aware of these issues.

Amy Molina suggested that the Law Enforcement paragraph from this D??? draft be included in the body of the existing D3 policy. Aside from that she agrees that much of this D??? draft constitutes procedure.

Chris McVeigh spoke about the difference between using “should” or “shall” in the policy, e.g. in the paragraph relating to Law Enforcement Requests. He noted that “shall” is more clear and directive. Also: “All requests shall be immediately forwarded to the Office of the Superintendent.” The committee agreed to send the original D3 policy, with the noted amendment, to the WCUUSD board’s next meeting for first reading.

- 3.3. F49 Acceptable Use:** Mark Kline had provided some suggested edits for this policy. He shared the suggestions and walked through his reasoning behind each. Discussion followed around whether this policy is necessary, as it is already addressed in the Acceptable Use agreement. Lindy Johnson noted that this policy indicates that it is “recommended” but there is no such policy in the VSBA’s recommended policies. Chris McVeigh suggested that this was a recommended policy that Jim Garrity had prepared for the committee. Lindy Johnson stated that she would like to see this policy draft put on hold. She would like to wait and see if the contents of this policy draft are already covered elsewhere. Chris McVeigh suggested putting it on hold until the next committee meeting; in the meantime we can compare the contents of this policy draft and see if they are covered elsewhere. Committee members agreed with this plan.
- 3.4. School Choice Policy:** Chris McVeigh stated that he does not think we are ready to discuss this policy right now. Lindy Johnson stated that this is a huge topic and maybe the timing is not right at this moment. She feels that this needs a lot of discussion and public input. Some discussion followed around whether this is a required policy. Chris McVeigh stated that when we created Articles of Agreement, they included creating a policy around school choice. Chris McVeigh asked Michelle Ksepka to locate the existing collection of resources (from other districts, e.g.) so that the committee can be prepared to begin this discussion.
- 3.5. E46 Memorials Policy:** The committee briefly discussed this policy. Aaron Boynton asked to consider the idea of “common memorial” through the lens of equity, district-wide. Chris McVeigh stated that the common memorial will be approved by the board at a public meeting, and that this will help consider the equity issue. Change language: in the second paragraph under Philosophy, change to “common space designated in each school...” and in second paragraph under Procedure: “borne by the district. This draft of the policy, as edited tonight, will go to the WCUUSD board for first reading.

3.6. Conflict of Interest: Jen Miller- Arsenault asked for clarification around the impetus for this policy. Chris McVeigh explained the concept of appearance of impropriety or conflict of interest. Scott Thompson asked whether there have been concerns expressed that have led to this policy. Jen Miller- Arsenault indicated that she believes the issues in this policy are covered under our codes of ethics as educators.

Lindy Johnson stated that she feels this is unnecessary and uncomfortable. Jen Miller- Arsenault stated that she feels there are already checks and balances in place. Chris McVeigh asked for specifics around what are the checks and balances, and what would happen if someone were to defy their code of ethics - what is the recourse?

Chris McVeigh asked Aaron Boynton's thoughts on the matter. He stated that he sees both sides but is not sure it needs to be addressed in a policy. Jen Miller- Arsenault explained that the Agency of Education does get involved if a violation of ethics reaches a certain level. Scott Thompson suggested that this might belong in procedure versus policy, to ensure that the code of ethics is transferred to a specific mode of action. Chris McVeigh stated that, in order to have procedures, don't you first need a policy? Lindy Johnson stated: we have so many small schools in Vermont. The fact that the VSBA does not have a model policy makes her think that this has not been an issue worth creating policy around. Jen Miller- Arsenault asked how to go forward when we have policies that are outdated and are in need of board action. Chris McVeigh suggested bringing these policies to the committee for the next meeting and we will address them as they come in. Chris McVeigh suggested discussing an Equity policy. Jen Miller- Arsenault stated that this will likely be discussed as a full board.

4. Future Agenda Items:

4.1. Anti-Racism

4.2. Commitment to Humanity and Justice Statement

5. Adjourn: The committee adjourned by consensus at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Stoudt, Committee Recording Secretary