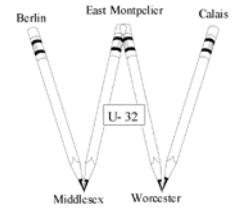


Washington Central Unified Union School District

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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Superintendent



WCUUSD Policy Committee Meeting Minutes Approved 6.21.21 3:45-5:00 PM

Present: Chris McVeigh, Dorothy Naylor, Lindy Johnson, Amy Molina, Michelle Ksepka, Jody Emerson, Ellen Knoedler, Jim Garrity, Scott Thompson

- 1. Call to Order: Chris McVeigh called the meeting to order at 3:47 p.m.**
- 2. Approve Minutes of 5.25.21 and 6.7.21: Dorothy Naylor moved to approve the minutes of May 25, 2021. This motion carried unanimously. Chris McVeigh moved to approve the minutes of June 7, 2021. This motion carried unanimously.**
- 3. Technology Policies:**
 - 3.1. D3 District Take Home Device & Personal Device Policy:** Chris McVeigh indicated that he has heard from staff members who would like to provide input about this policy. He suggested that we put off the discussion of this policy until the next committee meeting so that time is allowed for natural discussion, rather than at a WCUUSD board meeting. Scott Thompson asked whether it might be appropriate to have a broader statement of policy around technology/ devices, and then reference specifics in a procedural attachment. This might make for a more durable over time policy (and the procedures can be updated as needed.)
Dorothy Naylor moved to table this agenda item until the next policy committee meeting. This motion carried unanimously.
- 4. Review policies:**
 - 4.1. School Choice Policy:** Chris McVeigh noted that the intention is to have forums throughout the fall in the five towns. The intention at this point in the process is to start fleshing out a very rough draft and to seek community input. He welcomed comments.
Scott Thompson stated that among the themes in the survey comments, it was hard to detect a common or broad trend. Would it be easier to have a "School Assignment" policy? Whereas, normally a student would be assigned to their town school but under some circumstances the assignment might change. I.E. the expectation would be that the student attends their home town school but the possibility exists for other options. He stated that he is envisioning something

similar to what is currently happening, where parents make a request and it is considered on a case by case basis.

Dorothy Naylor suggested that, after seeing this evolve, the committee might want to put this off for a bit. At this time, she believes that the merged district has the capability, and is making progress toward, offering consistent student offerings across the district. She stated that it is important, at the meetings that are planned in the fall that the intention is communicated broadly. She believes the committee should take its time and continue for a year or two, to carry this out as we have been, and to see how it plays out over a few years as the merged district takes shape. Ellen Knoedler stated that this dovetails with the conversations that have taken place recently about raising up all of the schools, and while there may be exceptions and some unique needs, if all of the schools offer the same programs and interventionists, etc. then the push to go to a different school may go by the wayside. She believes that, in light of the curriculum audit, making sure that every school offers the same, and community is very important, and keeping kids in their towns is critical. Lindy Johnson stated that she believes taking our time is the right thing to do. She stated that using the term "School Assignment" does not seem like a wise choice of words for the policy.

- 4.2. E46 Memorials Policy:** Dorothy Naylor noted that, in the policy, regarding existing memorials being eventually removed, she believes it is important to indicate in the policy that those who are memorialized will be included in the common memorial. Jody Emerson reminded the committee that this had been addressed in the past when families were made aware that memorials would be moved to a common space - this will require contacting families yet again. This was difficult for families in the past. Amy Molina indicated that her interpretation of the policy under "philosophy" is that U-32 already has a common space designated. She does not see how it would require current memorials to be moved again. Jody Emerson stated that, even at the elementary schools, contacting families to move or remove memorials, will cause the families to revisit grief. Michelle Ksepka stated that her understanding from previous conversations is that whatever is chosen will be the same at each school - e.g., a wall space at each school or a bench at each school. Amy Molina suggested that a common memorial space at each campus is appropriate; we are looking for a common way to memorialize those lost at each campus but it doesn't necessarily have to be the same structure or space. Edit Procedure first paragraph: "common memorial" change to "*will charge the administration at each school with developing a common memorial for that school...*" Michelle Ksepka suggested that we hear from, and get feedback from elementary school administrators on this policy. Amy Molina reiterated what Jody Emerson had stated previously, that this was very difficult for families in the past at U-32. She stated that administrators had made a lot of phone calls to families and in one case she believes a home visit was made. Jody Emerson stated that U-32 had also followed up with a letter. She noted that there is currently an inventory of the memorials at each school; she reviewed the inventory.

Some discussion followed about cases where a memorial plaque is attached to a tree, or a bench, or a boulder, etc. - will the plaque be removed but the item to which it was attached remain?

Chris McVeigh suggested sending this to elementary principals and letting them know that this will be considered early in the school year, and to seek their input.

4.3. Family Request to Remain in School at End of Year: This had been brought up at a WCUUSD board meeting and suggested that the Policy Committee address. The committee will address this at a future meeting.

4.4. Conflict of Interest: The committee discussed this draft. Some discussion followed around the inevitability in small communities that these circumstances will arise. Discussion points regarding this draft policy: Change language to “staff member *WILL* be excused from participation...”

Some discussion followed regarding using “shall” versus “will.” Scott Thompson suggested that the last bullet be moved to the first. Discussion of changing “whenever practical” to “whenever possible” -Amy Molina brought up the circumstances when parents are coaches. It was discussed that this policy is not meant to apply to coaches. Insert language that this policy does not apply to co-curricular or extra-curricular activities. “Co-curricular coaches may coach their own children.” But add “and coaches” to the bullet about administering discipline.” Add definition to “Staff member” in the first bullet - “including administrators, Teachers, coaches and advisors (including volunteers), and others employed by the district.” Amy Molina suggested defining staff member in the introductory paragraph in the same way “child” and “parent” are defined, rather than adding a bullet.

5. Future Agenda Items:

5.1. Anti-Racism

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

Respectfully submitted, Lisa Stoudt, Committee Recording Secretary