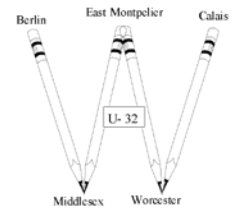


Washington Central Unified Union School District

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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Bryan Olkowski
Superintendent



WCUUSD Policy Committee Meeting Minutes Approved 6.7.21 4:30-6:30 PM

Present: Chris McVeigh, Michelle Ksepka, James Garrity, Jody Emerson, Bryan Olkowski, Aaron Boynton

Others: Ellen Knoedler

1. Call to Order: There was no quorum so the meeting was not called to order.

Michelle Ksepka had shared school choice survey results. There have been a total of 214 responses. She had shared that the majority of the respondents have children in the elementary schools, and that a majority indicated support for school choice. Chris McVeigh asked those present what their thoughts were about moving forward with the School Choice Policy.

Ellen Knoedler said that several people had provided feedback to her about the survey, indicating that they found it confusing, and some thought the questions were skewed. She stated that there are a lot of issues that need to be fleshed out and that she has concerns about the smaller schools closing. She stated - if there are issues in a school, let's fix them. She indicated that the survey may be a good start but that there are a lot of questions. She would rather wait until people can meet in person so that the school board can meet in the schools and ask for input from the community. She indicated that she hopes we will not make decisions based on this one survey. She indicated that she thought the theme of the responses was "fine, you can offer school choice but I want my child to stay in my town's school." She stated that she feels that parents should be provided the message loud and clear that their children would NOT be forced to attend another school in another town in the district.

Aaron Boynton expressed his desire to make all of the schools in WCUUSD great and provide equity that way; he shared his experience in his own community where school choice was offered and not one family took advantage of it. Chris McVeigh asked Aaron Boynton what he would suggest as "next steps." He suggested, if we do decide to move forward, work out the procedures and details of exactly how it would look. Jody Emerson shared her opinion that, inevitably, if costs are going to be cut, then school closures will follow eventually. She believes that school choice is offering an opportunity for a few families, to specialize some schools, and/ or to get more students

and families invested in the school that fits their unique needs. She suggested that a draft framework be created as a next step, for continued discussion and development. Michelle Ksepka shared her opinion that school choice should be an offering for families. She believes that we need to have a more explicit framework in place, to guide discussion going forward. Chris McVeigh indicated though, that having a draft policy for consideration gives the impression that the decision has already been made. Michelle Ksepka suggested providing different policies/ options to discuss and consider. Superintendent Olkowski suggested that being intentional in inviting input at meetings, one in each town, in person, would be critical in moving forward. He stated that there are multiple opportunities in the next school year, assuming we are in a better place with COVID-19, to come together in person and discuss issues such as school choice, strategic planning, etc. Superintendent Olkowski reviewed the articles of agreement around school closure. "In academic year 2021-2022 and after, the New Union District Board shall not close any school building or cease using the building to provide direct instruction in at least one grade, pre-kindergarten through grade 12, unless first approved by both a majority of the Union District Board and the voters residing in the town in which the school is located."

Michelle Ksepka suggested that the question of siblings needs to be considered, and that parents need to be made aware that once a choice is made, stability is required and back and forth will not be possible. Some discussion followed around legal statute that is already in place related to school attendance. Ellen Knoedler indicated that there would need to be a lot of discussion with parents about the importance of continuity for the children.

Chris McVeigh suggested that those present, in absence of a quorum, consider the information that had been shared about "Conflict of Interest" for the purpose of discussion.

Discussion followed around whether it is possible to designate a person in each school to step in and take care of disciplinary situations if, for example, a child of an administrator in the building, were involved. The committee agreed to discuss this issue further in the context of a larger group.

The committee will have one more meeting before a July break. At that time the goal is to get technology policies ready for the full board, and to draft a Conflict of Interest policy for the board to consider.

Next meeting June 21, 2021 3:45-5:00

- 2. Approve Minutes of 5.25.21: (no quorum)**
 - 3. Technology Policies:**
 - 3.1. D3 District Take Home Device & Personal Device Policy**
 - 4. Review Policies:**
 - 4.1. School Choice Policy**
 - 4.2. E46 Memorials Policy**
 - 4.3. Family Request to Remain in School at End of Year**
 - 5. Future Agenda Items:**
 - 5.1. Anti-Racism**
 - 6. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 5:57 p.m.**
- Respectfully submitted, Lisa Stoudt, Committee Recording Secretary