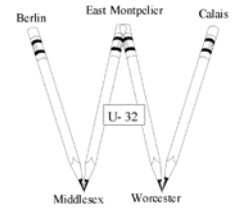


Washington Central Unified Union School District

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

Debra Taylor, Ph.D.
Interim Superintendent



WCUUSD Policy Committee Meeting Minutes Unapproved 6.23.20 4:30-6:30 pm

Via Video Conference*

Present: Debra Taylor, Jody Emerson, Chris McVeigh, Marylynne Strachan, Jaiel Pulskamp, Dorothy Naylor, Townes DeGroot

1. **Call to Order:** Chris McVeigh called the meeting to order at 4:45.
2. Approve Minutes of 6.16.20 (this was put off until the next meeting)

3. Review Existing Policies

The committee agreed that pronouns need to be edited in the policies; this is assumed in all of the conversations about edits.

3.1 Section C – Students

3.1.1 Current (C9, C20/C45, C46, C49):

C20: Jody Emerson had made a change to this policy, regarding less than ten day suspensions, as had been suggested by Chris McVeigh. The committee is ready for this to go to the WCUUSD Board for approval.

Marylynne Strachan moved to approve Policy C20 for first reading at the WCUUSD Board level. Seconded by Jaiel Pulskamp, this motion carried unanimously.

C45: Bus Discipline: The committee is ready for this to go to the WCUUSD Board for approval.

Marylynne Strachan moved to approve Policy C45 for first reading at the WCUUSD Board level. Seconded by Jaiel Pulskamp, this motion carried unanimously.

C46: Interrogation: The committee would like to bring this policy to the WCUUSD Board to discuss, especially the issue of videoing, or recording. Townes DeGroot

indicated that as a student he would like his right to record, to be known. The committee had also wanted to get counsel from Scott Cameron.

Marylynne Strachan moved to bring Policy C46 to the WCUUSD Board, for their consideration of the language around a student's right to record an interrogation session. Seconded by Jaiel Pulskamp, this motion carried unanimously.

C49: Kindergarten Entrance Age: This had been decided at the previous meeting; the committee had taken action to move this policy forward, eliminating the second paragraph.

3.2.1 Additional:

D1: Proficiency Based Graduation Requirements: Chris McVeigh indicated that this policy might be one that the committee wants to consider, in light of the recent discussions around PBGR. Superintendent Taylor suggested collecting some data from the guidance office, for the committee to consider. Marylynne Strachan asked Townes DeGroot for his input regarding this policy. Townes indicated that he has always had a clear understanding of proficiency requirements. He understands that some students have different degrees of understanding around proficiency grading. Personalized learning plans were discussed. Jody Emerson explained that U32 is continuing to work toward improvement around PLPs.

Jaiel Pulskamp recalled that there was discussion around confusion of whether colleges were accepting our PBGR when considering admission.

Marylynne Strachan stated that she feels we need to have this conversation with the full board and with the Education Quality Committee, before we consider this policy. Jaiel Pulskamp indicated that she thinks we need to consider ways to communicate to parents and community members around PBGR. Chris McVeigh reminded the committee that we are not thinking about revamping PBGR, just wanting to address how to communicate these requirements and to consider how colleges receive our grading system. Discussion followed around whether or not our PBGR translates to a GPA.

Chris McVeigh suggested that the WCUUSD Board revisit this topic in September.

D2: Grade Advancement: Chris McVeigh asked for input from committee members. Marylynne Strachan stated that she wonders why parental input is not included in this policy. Aaron Boynton stated that different schools approach this differently; he was wondering if the policy should answer the question of "who has the final say?" Some discussion followed around the topic of retention, in light of distance learning. Debra Taylor indicated that there are some guidelines from the Agency of Education. This policy will be tabled until the next committee meeting. Debra Taylor will share information with committee members, about the Agency of Education's guidance around this topic.

D3: Responsible Computer, Internet and Network Use: Jody Emerson explained to the committee that Go Guardian continues to work during distance learning. The same policy, rules and procedures apply during distance learning. Marylynn Strachan asked whether there is an educational component for younger students, around computer use and for example, digital citizenship. Aaron Boynton indicated that teachers do, as a rule, teach some computer usage.

Marylynn Strachan moved to approve this policy for first reading at the WCUUSD level. Seconded by Jaiel Pulskamp, this motion carried unanimously.

D4: Title 1 Comparability: Debra Taylor suggested that this policy stays as written. **Dorothy Naylor moved to approve this policy for first reading at the WCUUSD Board level. Seconded by Marylynn Strachan, this motion carried unanimously.**

D5: Animal Dissection: Debra Taylor suggested that this policy stays as written. Chris McVeigh indicated that he thinks the policy should indicate either superintendent or principal (not either/ or.) Committee agreed on “principal.” Townes DeGroot stated that he doesn’t know of any dissecting that happens in any of the science classes at U32. **Marylynn Strachan moved to approve this policy for first reading at the WCUUSD Board level. Seconded by Jaiel Pulskamp, this motion carried unanimously.**

D6: Class Size: Marylynn Strachan asked whether this policy will be affected by distance learning. Debra Taylor indicated that the policy itself is very broad regarding actual student numbers.

Some discussion followed around other issues such as school start time and teacher schedules related to collective bargaining agreements. Debra Taylor explained that in the fall when we are required to follow guidance around smaller groups of students (due to COVID19), these issues will be important. She shared that Task Forces are meeting regularly to address logistics. She suggested an update from the Task Forces, for example, in July.

Debra Taylor indicated that, as of now, it looks as if there will be a lot of variance from district to district in Vermont, regarding the start of school in the fall (in light of COVID19). She suggested that the Policy Committee might want to work on a policy, with input from the Task Force, around the idea of temporarily amending some policies, with a sunset provision, in light of COVID19.

Marylynn Strachan moved to approve Policy D6 for first reading at the WCUUSD Board level. Seconded by Jaiel Pulskamp, this motion carried unanimously.

E1: Title 1 Parental Involvement Compacts: **Dorothy Naylor moved to approve Policy E1 for first reading at the WCUUSD, Board level. Seconded by Jaiel Pulskamp, this motion carried unanimously.**

E45: Role of Religion in the Schools: (This is NOT a required policy.) Debra Taylor asked administrators, Aaron Boynton and Jody Emerson, whether they find this policy as written to be sufficient. They do. Committee members asked Townes DeGroot for his input; he shared his experience learning about religions as part of some curricula. Jaiel Pulskamp asked whether students get an excused absence if they are celebrating a religious holiday on a school day. Jody Emerson shared that, for truancy, all absences are counted, whether excused or not. The committee agreed that indicating in the policy that missing school for observing a religious holiday .

Marylynne Strachan moved to approve this policy E45 (with noted amendments), for first reading at the WCUUSD Board level. Seconded by Jaiel Pulskamp, this motion carried unanimously.

Jody Emerson and Aaron Boynton will be sure this change is reflected in the Student/ Parent handbooks.

E46: Memorials: **Marylynne Strachan moved to approve this policy E46, for first reading at the WCUUSD level. Seconded by Jaiel Pulskamp, this motion carried unanimously.**

F1: Travel Reimbursement: Debra Taylor shared that there are very specific forms for documenting reimbursement. **Marylynne Strachan moved to approve this policy F1 for first reading at the WCUUSD Board level. Seconded by Dorothy Naylor, this motion carried unanimously.**

F22: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: Debra Taylor stated that this is primarily the policy that the Montpelier School Board adopted in 2018. Marylynne Strachan asked whether Townes DeGroot has feedback about this draft. He stated that he thinks the policy is good, if vague. Marylynne Strachan suggested that the topic of curriculum within this policy would be a good discussion to have with the Education Quality Committee. Debra Taylor suggested that the Ed Quality Committee could consider this at their July meeting. Townes DeGroot will join the Education Quality Committee, since Mia Smith has graduated. Debra Taylor suggested that an annual report around diversity, equity and inclusion issues at WCUUSD be considered. Perhaps the Ed Quality Committee could take up monitoring around this policy.

4. Future Agenda Items

4.1 School Choice (6.30.20)

4.2 C7 Student Attendance (in the fall after guidance from AOE)

5. Adjourn: The committee adjourned by consensus at 6:40.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Stoudt, Board Recording Secretary

NEXT MEETING DATE:

***Open Meeting Law temporary changes as of 3/30/20:**

Boards are not required to designate a physical meeting location. Board members and staff are not required to be present at a designated meeting location.

Our building will not be open for meetings. All are welcome to attend virtually.