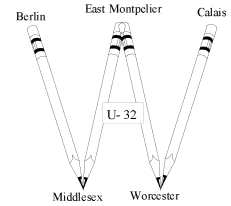


Washington Central Unified Union School District

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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Debra Taylor, Ph.D.
Interim Superintendent



WCUUSD Policy Committee Meeting Minutes 12.10.19, 5 - 7 pm

1130 Gallison Hill Road, Montpelier

approved 1-6-20

In Attendance: Chris McVeigh, Jaiel Pulskamp, Marylynn Strachan, board members; Aaron Boynton, Berlin Principal, Jody Emerson, U-32 Assistant Principal, Debra Taylor, Interim Superintendent

1. Call to Order: Chris McVeigh called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m.
2. Approve Minutes of 11.26.19: Jaiel Pulskamp moved to approve the minutes of November 26, 2019. Seconded by Marylynn Strachan, this motion carried unanimously.

3. Updates

3.1 Hate Symbols Resolution: Committee members discussed the possible resolution that had been drafted, while considering some of the verbiage in Policy C27. Aaron Boynton stated that the more specific the definition of the symbols, lettering, insignia, the harder it is to enforce, universally. Committee members indicated that it is understood that these symbols - Confederate flag, swastika - are included in the definition; however, should we spell them out so specifically within the policy? Is it helpful to have these specific examples? Would more people understand the intent of the policy if specific examples are provided? Committee members discussed - will this be a stand alone resolution? or embedded in the policy? or both.

Some discussion followed around the Black Lives Matter flag, and around including the term: white supremacy.

Jody Emerson stated that people - parents, students - do not immediately see a response when an incident occurs and the administration deals with it - because of confidentiality. There is a big educational component in each incident.

Jaiel Pulskamp feels that we need to have a more direct conversation at the board level to get a better feel for how many are satisfied with the policies as they stand, and how many feel we need to discuss this further.

Committee members agree on having this as a separate resolution as well as including the edited verbiage that Jonas Eno-Van Fleet had suggested within the C27 policy. The wording was discussed and edited; updated language is included at the end of the minutes.

4. Review Existing Policies

4.1 Section A – Board:

Committee members discussed A21: Public Participation at Board Meetings. Marylynne Strachan and Jaiel Pulskamp indicated that they don't feel that board meetings have an open feeling to the public. Marylynne Strachan suggested that there be some teaching to board members and to the public, so that there is a shared understanding of how communication happens at the board meetings.

Do Robert's Rules apply to "public participation at board meetings"?

Debra Taylor reminded the committee that the WCUUSD is currently operating under rules for "small boards," but when board membership increases after Town Meeting, the small boards rules will not apply.

A21 will go to the board for first reading.

4.1.1 Additional: A22: Committee members discussed whether this policy is necessary. A22 will go to the board for first reading.

A23 will go to the board for first reading.

A24: some edits were suggested. This edited version will go to the board for first reading. (please see below; change to paragraph four)

A31: Committee members discussed this policy, including board stipends. Some discussion followed around board training opportunities. Marylynne Strachan suggested discussing with the board a more fruitful plan for board trainings/ orientations. She would like for the trainings to be more specific to the unique nature of WCUUSD.

Debra Taylor stated that board development could be included in each agenda, for example, 30 minutes. This policy will go to the board for first reading.

A32: will go to the board for first reading.

A33: Committee agreed that this policy is not needed (at this time).

A34: The committee discussed this policy. Chris McVeigh is going to edit this model policy; he asked Principal Boynton to provide some input in his edits. The committee will revisit this at the next meeting.

At the next meeting, the committee will begin with A34 and then move to Section B.

4.2 Section B – Personnel (not addressed at tonight's meeting)

4.2.1 Current

4.2.2 Additional

5. Adjourn: The committee adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Stoudt

Hate Symbols Resolution

(leave first paragraph as it is)

Washington Central Unified Union School District strives to create a learning environment conducive to student achievement, creativity and exploration. An environment in which students use their opportunities to experience their power to create and change themselves and their environment. Hate symbols indefensibly dishonor those goals. Yet, free speech values protect, but do not extol, the right to be wrong. Censorship may punish or suppress harmful speech but it does not change minds.

(second paragraph:) after "Bullying," add "and Student Self-Expression Policies"

To unwaveringly protect all students' rights to a safe educational environment, the WCUUSD School Board directs administrative officials to vigorously and promptly enforce our Prevention of Harrassment, Hazing and Bullying, and Student Self-Expression Policies, to thwart and respond to the undeniably harmful effects with which hate symbols sully our educational community.

(third paragraph:) "These policies should be enforced to combat symbol, lettering or insignia associated with organizations that promote hatred or violence or that support racial supremacy."

(new paragraph:) It is the sense of the WCUUSD Board of School Directors that symbols, lettering, or insignia associated with organizations that promote hatred or violence or that support white supremacy, such as Confederate symbolism, and the swastika, interfere with the orderly operation of our schools.

(also add this new paragraph (above, beginning with "It is the sense..." to page 2 of Policy C27, after "E.")

A24: fourth paragraph:

While board members can work directly with the Superintendent and central office staff, board members may not give substantive direction to a staff member or suggest a course of action that staff perceives as substantive direction. When presented with citizen concerns, Board members refer them to appropriate levels of authority, in accordance with the district's policy on complaints.