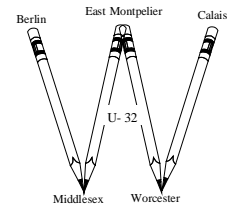


Washington Central Unified Union School District

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 Approved Meeting Minutes 10.22.19 at 4:30 pm 1130 Gallison Hill Road, Montpelier

In attendance: Chris McVeigh, Jaiel Pulskamp, Marylynne Strachan, board members; Aaron Boynton, Berlin Principal; Jody Emerson, U-32 Assistant Principal; Debra Taylor, Interim Superintendent; Krista Metivier, Assistant to the Central Office Administrators; David Delcore, Times Argus; Bailey Morse, Iona Bristol, Meg Falby, Are You Into It Consent Club; Iona Bristol, Bruce Pandya, Amy Koenigbauer, Meg Allison, Seeking Social Justice; Mark Brown, Teacher

1. Call to Order – Chris McVeigh called the meeting to order at 4:36 pm.
2. Approve Minutes of 9.23.19
Marylynne Strachan made the motion and Jaiel Pulskamp seconded to approve the minutes of 9.23.19; so moved.
3. Student Led Requests & Presentations
3.1 "Are You Into It" Consent Club – students Bailey Morse and Iona Bristol shared a presentation regarding a request for the board to adopt a condom accessibility policy for U-32. They used the results from the Youth Risk Behavior Survey and an informational letter from the Agency of Education regarding the subject to form their request. Their goal is to provide ways for students to become educated, reduce associated stigma, and keep students healthy.

The committee inquired as to how many other Vermont schools have implemented similar policies and student adviser Meg Falby indicated that there were thirteen from last year. The Consent Club indicated that they had spoken with nurses and students at two schools in particular regarding their process. When asked if there was any pushback at these other schools, the reply was that there may have been from some teachers not wanting to participate and the concerns regarding the financial impact. Those issues at U-32 could be mitigated by more community engagement/education and the clarification that Planned Parenthood would be providing all necessary items so there would be no financial impact.

Chris McVeigh shared the desire for more community outreach or forums to retain feedback from the community, in addition to the two readings of the policy before adoption at board meetings.

The committee will report on this request to the full board in November to garner feedback and direction.

- 3.2 Seeking Social Justice at U-32 – student Bruce Pandya shared the impetus for the request for a specific Hate Symbols policy was that the day U-32 flew the Black Lives Matter flag another student flew a Blue Lives Matter and Confederate flags outside of a school bus window. The Seeking Social Justice group sent out a specific survey regarding the Confederate flag to students

and staff that had over 200 respondents and researched court cases regarding hate symbols and shared those results as part of their presentation. He explained that the history of certain symbols causes people of color to feel unsafe and uncomfortable and there is a direct connection with the intent/impact of displaying those symbols to intimidated. This group feels that these acts cause a disruption of the learning environment. In response to a question by a committee member regarding more instances of hate symbols being on campus, students Iona Bristol and Bailey Morse shared in the affirmative that they have seen swastikas around school and Confederate flags as laptop backgrounds, clothing, and social media. Jody Emerson suggested that before the Black Lives Matter flag went up, there was maybe one instance.

The committee inquired as to similar policies across the country for schools, select boards, etc and the reply was that recently Hazen Union in VT banned confederate flags; country-wide there have been bans in Indiana, Virginia, South Carolina. The committee concerns were that such a stringent policy could have First Amendment implications and that some of the requested policy could be considered covered in the Harassment, Hazing and Bullying Prevention Policy already. The question was asked regarding who would make the final decision on what the definition of a hate symbol was – as they can change through time. The student group was clear that they are aware of the impact of intent in these situations and this is their effort to change the culture and give victims more ground to stand on because it is the school’s responsibility to prevent disruption of the school environment.

The committee will report to the full board at their November meeting to garner feedback and direction and return to committee to discuss further.

4. Updates

4.1 Library Media Policy – Meg Allison presented a policy that all Washington Central librarians worked to update using previous policies from all schools. There was some discussion regarding the policy delegating absolute authority to the librarians. Meg shared that if there was an additional approval process for all materials, it would slow down the process tremendously and that librarians are hired with a level of expertise and licensure that not even some administrators have.

The committee agreed that the policy does not refer to “absolute authority” and will send policy as is to the board for first reading in November.

4.1 Library Media Policy Procedure – Debra Taylor shared the procedure as to how a complaint regarding a library media might be handled. She shared that procedures are not subject to board approval.

5. Review Existing Policies

5.1 Section A – Board

5.1.1 Current – A1 Board Member Conflict of Interest – this current policy was reviewed by the committee. What an appearance of a conflict of interest might look like was shared; waivers were also explained. The definition of “fiduciary” was discussed and the committee felt that it does not necessarily mean fiscal so they would like to add “and/or financial” after fiduciary both times in standard #5.

Present this policy to the board for first reading in November with changes noted above.

5.1.2 Additional - Tabled

5.1.2.1 Required

5.1.2.2 Optional

6. Affirm Future Meeting Dates – the group decided to meet on the second Tuesday of the month from 4:45 – 6:30 pm.

7. Adjourn – the meeting adjourned by consensus at 6:33 pm.

