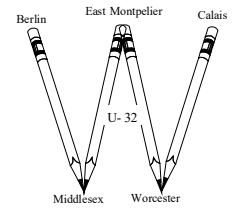


Washington Central Unified Union School District

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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Meagan Roy, Ed.D.
Superintendent



WCUUSD Policy Committee Minutes
3.20.24
4:45-6:45 PM
Via Video Conference
Central Office, 1130 Gallison Hill Rd. Montpelier
Via Video Conference

Present: Chris McVeigh, Amelia Contrada, Amy Molina, Natasha Eckart, Superintendent Roy

1. Call to Order: Chris McVeigh called the meeting to order at 4:52 p.m.

Committee members who were present agreed to have Chris McVeigh continue as Committee Chair. Day/ time of meeting: Amelia asked whether the committee would consider having a later start time. Wednesday at 5:15 is the start time that works for those present. 5:15 - 6:45. Superintendent Roy reminded those present that there would not be an April committee meeting because the board has added an additional meeting.

2. Approve Minutes of 2.22.24: Amelia Contrada moved to approve the minutes of February 22, 2024. Seconded by Natasha Eckart, this motion carried unanimously.

3. Policy for Discussion

3.1. School Choice: The Superintendent provided the various scenarios that are currently in place regarding residency and school attendance requests. Some discussion followed around the current procedure that is in place and whether it is appropriate to stay with the current practice. Discussion also followed around whether the various scenarios should be shared explicitly with families as options or whether it should continue to be on a case-by-case basis when parents request consideration. Committee members and administrators feel that the mechanism that is currently in place is sufficient and a policy is not needed at this time. Superintendent Roy stated that it makes more sense from her perspective to not spell out the criteria to families on the request form; to use/ provide the criteria for the board's consideration. Some discussion followed around whether all parents are apt to ask the questions and advocate to work within the criteria, or just some parents, thereby creating a system that is not consistent. Superintendent Roy stated that she feels that our administrators maneuver the situation well and offer parents support and options. Amelia suggested bringing this to the board and asking whether the board is willing to adhere more strictly to the criteria/ 4 bullet points. Some discussion followed around whether the board should ask parents to attend a meeting to speak to the request so that they can answer specific questions.

- 3.2. Education Philosophy:** Natasha Eckart shared that this policy was discussed in the Humanity and Justice Coalition. “Why”: statement on SLOs; Humanity and Justice vision statement; listing five core beliefs as “How.” In other words, how do we take all the work we have already done, and what we have, and put it together rather than re-inventing the wheel? She stated that Jen Miller-Arsenault had offered to draft such a document. Superintendent Roy indicated that this is a good idea. Other committee members agreed that this is a good idea. The committee will consider the draft at the May committee meeting.
- 3.3. Teaching and Learning About Controversial Issues:** Natasha Eckart shared that she had made edits to this draft based on a discussion with the Humanity and Justice Coalition. Agreement to strike out paragraph re: critical race theory. She shared that they had discussed the desire to use a word other than “controversial” in the policy title. They spoke about the need for a space for civil discourse - how to create environments where civil discourse can take place - creating “sentence starters” for teachers to use in their classrooms to facilitate civil discourse; how to ask questions without causing harm. Suggestion to not use “should,” but rather use “will.” Some discussion followed around the idea of civil discourse - how do we build this into transferable skills? A suggestion to change the language: We have civil discourse all the time - critical thinking and civil discourse are part of our method of teaching all of the time/are incorporated into instruction. Natasha Eckart stated that the Coalition had also spoken about eliminating the word “encouraged” and to be more direct. Superintendent Roy took notes on the verbiage that the committee discussed/ suggested/ agreed upon. Amelia Contrada suggested: adding “sexual orientation and gender identity” to the second to last paragraph. Superintendent Roy will use the verbiage from the Protected Categories in Vermont law. The last paragraph regarding the history of America - some discussion followed around how to express this in a broader sense. suggested verbiage: “unfiltered history of the US and the world.” “Factual perspective.”

4. Policies for Review

- 4.1. [F45](#):** Fundraising: Superintendent Roy shared that Susanne Gann had provided some input on this policy regarding fundraising. The committee considered some suggested edits to this policy as it is currently written. The following three policies are provided for review but have not yet been given consideration or had edits suggested.
- 4.2. [C20](#):** Student Conduct and Discipline (discussed in 22-23 & committee request admin feedback; VSBA updated in 2022 to [C15](#))
- 4.3. [C34](#):** Use of Restraint & Seclusion (VSBA updated model policy to [C70](#) in 2022)
- 4.4. [C45](#):** Bus Discipline

5. Future Agenda Items

- 5.1. Next Meeting:** May 8, 2024

6. Adjourn: The committee adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Grace, Committee Recording Secretary