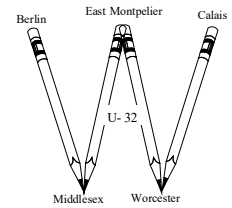


Washington Central Unified Union School District

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

5.8.24

5:15-6:45 PM

Via Video Conference

Central Office, 1130 Gallison Hill Rd. Montpelier

Via Video Conference

Present: Chris McVeigh, Natasha Eckart, Amelia Contrada, Superintendent Roy, Gillian Fuqua

- 1. Call to Order:** Chris McVeigh called the meeting to order at 5:25 p.m. Congratulations on the WCUUSD budget passing! No changes to the agenda tonight.
- 2. Approve Minutes of 3.20.24:** Natasha Eckart moved to approve the minutes from March 20, 2024. Seconded by Amelia Contrada, this motion carried unanimously.
- 3. Policy for Discussion**
 - 3.1. Education Philosophy:** Superintendent Roy shared that the drafts from last time, with redlined versions, also drafts from HJC, are included in the packet for the committee's feedback. Natasha Eckart stated that the Educational Philosophy draft is really a combination of work that is already happening; it is a combination of things that we have already said that we stand for. Core Beliefs/ Core Values versus Guiding Principles- same idea. Natasha is going to edit the draft (update core beliefs) and then bring the updated draft to the WCUUSD board on May 22nd. Chris McVeigh would like to add the word "curiosity" to the document. He stated that he would like to incorporate that teaching is an interactive experience versus "teacher-forward" where the teacher is driving the experience. Incorporated into what part of the document? Superintendent Roy stated that the concept of learner agency was discussed a great deal during the Strategic Planning process; she sees these concepts woven within the guiding principles. She stated that it is less about whether it is happening in our classrooms, and that it is important to state it explicitly. Natasha Eckart suggested waiting until the new Core Belief language is included in the draft; this concept might be more explicitly stated in the new language. Superintendent Roy will share the newest draft of Core Beliefs to Natasha, who will update this draft to incorporate them, and then Superintendent Roy will give one last look to the draft before sharing with board members.

3.2. Teaching and Learning About Controversial Issues: Natasha Eckart stated that HJC started to look at this draft but has much more to discuss and suggest edits; this is likely to happen at their June meeting. Policy Committee meets in June; WCUUSD Board meets after the Policy Committee's meeting. HJC is meeting on June 11th; will have a draft completed in time for Policy Committee on June 12th. Superintendent Roy shared that we are unclear whether the Board meeting will happen on its planned date; the Steering Committee (meets this Monday) is going to consider changing the date. Chris McVeigh would prefer to present both policies together on the same night. Gillian Fuqua stated that she believes it makes sense to bring the Educational Philosophy policy forward, separate from the "Controversial Issues" policy. The committee will discuss this policy after HJC has had an opportunity to consider it at their June meeting.

4. Policies for Review

4.1. F45: Fundraising: Susanne Gann had provided a couple suggestions (in red on this draft), regarding the Boosters Club. Right now the policy hampers the booster's ability to do one of its core things - to reward kids, to provide incentives, to hold raffles, to create "swag bags" - as a separate entity, they would like to be able to do that. Chris McVeigh asked, what is the goal of the Boosters Club? Superintendent Roy stated, generally, Boosters Clubs originated to raise money for athletics - it has expanded beyond athletics to other extra-curricula's. Amelia Contrada stated that she likes the language that Susanne Gann provided, because of its specificity. Gillian Fuqua wondered whether we need a separate policy that sets guidance for other groups such as Boosters Club and PTO, including in the policy that any fundraising complies with the fundraising policy. That way a separate policy would deal specifically with other activities that the Boosters Club carries out - e.g., buying and selling or giving away their own materials. Superintendent Roy stated that she does not think the board can create a separate policy for the Boosters Club since it is not a WCUUSD entity. She thinks within this draft policy, the "checks and balances" that have been discussed are in place. Superintendent Roy suggested that if the proposed edits to the policy are too complicated, we can take another stab at creating language - the desire is to make it so that the Boosters Club can give things to kids/ students. The committee together edited some of the language in the policy draft to reflect the discussion; Superintendent Roy took notes on the document; she will run this draft by Susanne Gann for her input/ insight. This policy is ready to go to the board after these changes.

4.2. C20: Student Conduct and Discipline (discussed in 22-23 & committee request admin feedback; VSBA updated in 2022 to C15): This policy has been updated in the VSBA model policy handbook. Superintendent Roy shared that WCUUSD's current policy has more specificity than the VSBA model policy. Some discussion followed around definitions of weapons, and the definition of "expulsion" which by Vermont law indicates that a student can return to school at the beginning of the next school year. Natasha Eckart stated that if we are trying to create supports so that a student can come back and be successful, using the term "expulsion" does not seem consistent with that, as the word is "loaded" and sounds final. Superintendent Roy stated that, for what it's worth, a recommendation for expulsion should be very rare. In her previous district there was not as often a recommendation to expel. Discussion followed around expulsion, including the topic of students who are incarcerated. The idea of suspension with services, or providing educational resources, etc. was discussed within the context of expulsion. Superintendent Roy suggested that this is a larger conversation that should include more people at the table. This policy will be

discussed at the next committee meeting. Superintendent Roy suggested inviting Steven Dellinger-Pate to the table. Natasha Eckart suggested inviting a school counselor to the discussion: when they come to board hearings and speak, they have great insight. Amelia

Contrada suggested inviting Flor Diaz Smith to the discussion; Chris McVeigh also suggested inviting a child psychologist to the table.

4.2.1. Discussion about whether to require manifestation determination processes, when applicable, before Board expulsion hearing. Some discussion followed about this. Committee members discussed that it can be very stressful for families and students, and a use of time for staff and families, to have a board hearing, when a manifestation determination hearing, which results in the board hearing decision being turned around, might possibly follow it. Superintendent Roy spoke to this issue; she indicated that when a student with a disability has discipline infraction issues that are substantial, a manifestation determination hearing should take place regardless of whether the ten day criteria is approaching. Superintendent Roy will edit the Student Conduct and Discipline policy and provide a few options based on other model policies, and run them by Steven Dellinger-Pate and Amy Molina before bringing back to the Policy Committee for further consideration.

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. Drug policy: definition of “distribution”

5.2. Next Meeting: June 12, 2024

6. Adjourn: The committee adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Grace, Committee Recording Secretary