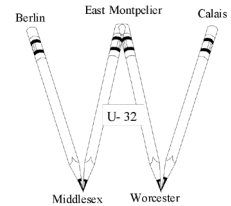


# Washington Central Unified Union School District

*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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## WCUUSD Policy Committee

### Minutes

9.11.24

5:15-6:45 PM

Central Office, 1130 Gallison Hill Rd. Montpelier  
Via Video Conference

**Present:** Chris McVeigh, Natasha Eckart, Amelia Contrada, Superintendent Dellinger-Pate, Amy Molina, Gillian Fuqua, Elizabeth Brown, Lisa Stoudt

- 1. Call to Order:** Chris McVeigh called the meeting to order at 5:26 p.m. Change to agenda: Natasha Eckart would like to review Educational Philosophy and the draft “Learning Environments... Civil Discourse” policy.
- 2. Approve Minutes of 6.12.24:** Natasha Eckart moved to approve the minutes from June 12, 2024. This motion carried unanimously.
- 3. Work Plan Development:** The committee reviewed the work plan draft. Chris McVeigh reviewed that there was a desire to create a procedure manual for putting all procedures into one place, not in the student handbook. Chris McVeigh asked administrators what might be the best way to do that. Superintendent Dellinger-Pate has been speaking with central office staff about how to create a way to share policies and procedures with easy access on the website. As policies and procedures are updated, they will be shared online. He noted that the work plan calendar for procedures would follow the same timeline/ align with policies. Chris McVeigh asked that procedures be presented when the board considers policies. He suggested that this be on this committee’s agenda two months down the road. Gillian Fuqua: Will this consist of procedures that are related to a policy as opposed to other/ general procedures? Superintendent Dellinger-Pate: yes

4. **Meeting Schedule:** Next Policy meeting coincides with board meeting: will schedule the time from 5-6. Natasha: The date for the October meeting has been changed to Thursday, October 10. Chris McVeigh will reach out to Melissa Tuller to change the date on the calendar.

## 5. Policies

- 5.1. **Education Philosophy:** Natasha shared an updated version of this document. She explained: we wanted to have a philosophy that pulled together statements that the WCUUSD has already workshopped and created, so that it reflects all of the different aspects together, as well as EQS. Amy Molina suggested some formatting - including footnotes rather than including the entire verbiage to reference the statements that are incorporated into this document. Chris McVeigh suggested adding, specifically: *It is our intent that our educational philosophy meets or exceeds requirements of EQS Rule 2000.* Natasha Eckart suggested that putting that statement into the references would be appropriate. This statement will go to the WCUUSD Board for consideration at the next board meeting.
- 5.2. **Creating Learning Environments to Engage in Civil Discourse Policy:** Humanity and Justice Policy, as well as Natasha and Stephen Dellinger-Pate worked on several drafts of this policy. Some of the work has been around parsing procedure from policy. Natasha Eckart explained this draft. Some discussion followed; some edits and workshopping will be done to this version; it is not yet ready to go to the board. (Maybe at the meeting following the next.)

Chris McVeigh asked whether we would like to discuss a Cell Phone policy. Amy Molina said that we have procedures around cell phone usage, but no policy. A procedure has been in place at the middle school for years; this past year was the first year that a procedure was put into place in the high school. Students can have access to their cell phones during “free” times such as lunch, passing, and times that they do not have a class assigned. In middle school, students cannot use or possess their cell phones from the first bell to the last. There is a system for “warnings”/ “strikes.” Chris McVeigh asked whether there is anecdotal evidence about improved engagement. Amy Molina stated that, overall; there is a sentiment that classrooms are much better environments. She stated that some students and/ or parents are not in favor, but overall the feedback is positive. Chris McVeigh asked whether there is a way to “memorialize” this evidence in some way: The beneficial effects, as well as being candid about some parents and students not being in favor of it. Superintendent Dellinger-Pate stated that this would be a good topic for the student board representatives. Chris McVeigh asked whether committee members are interested in discussing the idea of choice for students to attend other schools; he spoke about, for example, students having the option of choosing a school that falls within their bus route. Specifically, he was thinking about the scenario of a school closure. Gillian Fuqua brought up the issue of equity that had been discussed when we considered the School Choice policy. Some discussion followed about the school choice options that are currently in place. Elizabeth Brown stated that the equity factor seems like a barrier to the idea of creating something new. Natasha Eckart stated that she believes adding something like this to the current conversation will only add “fuel to the fire.” Gillian Fuqua stated that there already is a mechanism in place for families on an individual basis to consider attending other schools in WCUUSD outside of their own town. The committee agreed overall that there is not currently an appetite to make changes to what

is currently in place. Discussion also followed around “proximity” as opposed to “town lines” when considering school attendance. Amy Molina stated that she will be bringing to the committee the Substance Abuse policy, or procedures around the policy, which she believes need some updating. She noted that she could not access the model policies on VSBA website. Chris McVeigh will find out the password that is needed to access the VSBA resource. Stephen Dellinger-Pate stated that the work plan in the packet is from last year and he wants to be sure that we update to reflect the work of this year. Stephen Dellinger-Pate and Chris McVeigh will get together briefly to update this.

**6. Future Agenda Items**

6.1. **Next Meeting:** Thursday, October 10, 2024

6.2. **Two months in the future:** add procedures manual/ procedures work plan calendar to agenda

**7. Adjourn: The committee adjourned at 6:24 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Grace, Committee Recording Secretary