



Student Safety & Well-Being Committee

Mercer Island High School

March 3, 2026

Meeting Notes

Meeting notes taken by Michelle Mueller, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

Opening Remarks

Frank Schott commenced the meeting at 5:37 p.m. and presented the agenda. Mr. Schott distributed a recap of responses from the Back to the Future exercise conducted during previous meetings and asked members to review. [Link here](#) to view the recap.

Superintendent Announcements

Superintendent Rundle distributed and reviewed a timeline for future Committee work. [Link here](#) to view.

Some discussion occurred around the objectives of the Committee, what deliverables will result and when the community can expect them. Superintendent Rundle confirmed that the Praesidium report will be shared with the community; however, how it will be disseminated has not yet been determined. As the Praesidium report will be final with no opportunity for edits or revisions, the Committee will be provided the opportunity to present its own report to the Board on June 25. It was recommended that the Committee report be finalized by June 18. It was suggested that the Praesidium report be shared with the Committee on June 12 when it's released. It was further suggested that presenting a long-term plan for the Committee, noting any action steps, would help inform the community. Superintendent Rundle noted that the Committee may transition to an on-going advisory group.

Superintendent Rundle relayed that Assistant Superintendent Erin Battersby will receive training from Praesidium to become a Certified Praesidium Guardian, which includes an intensive training program through Praesidium in May to acquire comprehensive strategies for effective abuse risk management. Changes recommended by the Committee may precede completion of her training.

A handout outlining KCSARC's (King County Sexual Assault Resource Center) recommended response to a disclosure was distributed. [Link here](#) to view.

Breakout Group Reports

Students - [Link to Presentation](#)

Students presented the results of their survey, as linked above. Some discussion occurred around what is considered inappropriate behavior between students and staff. There was a request to view the responses broken down by grade to see if there is any commonality among students in specific

grades. Mr. Schott will defer to the Student subcommittee leaders to work with students on more granular response data. While the survey did not specifically identify the type of misconduct (e.g., student-to-student or student-to-staff), many of the questions pertained to interactions with teachers and likely guided responses.

It was acknowledged that survey results are fairly representative of schools in the area. Students noted that in order to measure data and report on any changes, they will reissue the survey in the future. The next step will be for students to create a video on grooming and other topics. Students also want to develop a student-specific, visually engaging reporting flowchart.

Professional Boundaries - [Link to Presentation](#)

The Professional Boundaries subcommittee reported on work to date with reference to the presentation linked above. Items identified are only considerations at present and do not represent recommendations. It was noted that this subcommittee will not address reporting and training despite these items being included in the policies reviewed. Reporting and training fall under the purview of the Reporting and Follow Up subcommittee. It was noted further that the subcommittee will focus on Policy & Procedure 5253 - *Maintaining Profession Staff/Student Boundaries* as the overall governing policy. Other policies address boundaries and would need to be updated pursuant to any changes to 5253. In short, the subcommittee is considering creating consistency in definitions and adding specific grooming prevention language (e.g., exemplars) to ensure strong and indisputable boundaries are in place. Additional considerations include the fact that boundary language may differ by age or conditions (e.g., elementary different from high school, students receiving special services) and will need to provide flexibility to address a variety of circumstances (e.g., off-campus interactions, staff-owned businesses where students may be customers, student teaching assistants, meeting with teachers versus mental health counselors, and other circumstances that haven't been considered and specifically identified). Language around communications will need to be updated and refined to identify protocols

Reporting and Follow Up - [Link to Presentation](#)

The Reporting and Follow Up subcommittee reported on work to date with reference to the presentation linked above. Committee representatives stated that it is their goal that sexual misconduct never happens again, but, should it occur, they want to ensure steps are in place to address it. They considered how reporting looks at different grade levels (e.g., when a student is younger, app reporting is more common, reporting channels vary more for older students). The subcommittee decided to postpone evaluation at the elementary level until next year. The subcommittee feels the reporting flowchart is helpful but that a more kid-friendly design is needed to ensure all students understand the process. They will look further at Policy 3205 once it has been updated to the latest version of WSSDA Model Policy but noticed on initial review that the policy lacks information on how alumni can report.

The subcommittee is proposing including a "Student Advocate" in the process. The advocate would be connected with a victim (i.e., current student) following reporting. Their role would be to help the victim walk through the process and navigate the system, participate in meetings, connect the victim to resources, and provide emotional and social support for the student and their family. The advocate would be trauma-informed, culturally competent and familiar with the education system but not employed by the District. If the case becomes a criminal matter, the victim would be referred to

KCSARC to be connected with a legal advocate. In discussion with Mercer Island Youth and Family Services (MIYFS), they believe that MIYFS counselors may, with a minimal amount of training, be prepared to serve in this role. However no commitment has been made. A draft proposal was distributed for committee member feedback.

Student Learning and Educator/Staff Training - [Link to Presentation](#)

Due to time constraints, it was the consensus of the Committee to postpone the presentation, linked above, from the Student Learning and Educator/Staff Training subcommittee to the April 7 meeting. The subcommittee looked at reporting and boundaries and what the District is doing to teach these expectations to staff.

Superintendent Closing Remarks

Superintendent Rundle shared that an article authored by Moe Clark will be printed in the newspaper at the end of the week. The District did not respond to Ms. Clark's request for comment. The article will highlight that the former student in the Curtis Johnston case is filing a civil tort claim against the District. The District will follow all legal processes and will participate as required with the aid of outside counsel.

Some discussion occurred around Mr. Willecke's return to the classroom.

Next Steps

The subcommittees noted that there is overlap in the policies they are evaluating. Mr. Schott will be in communication with subcommittee heads to see if there is a way to eliminate this.

The meeting concluded at 7:39 p.m.