

WSC POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE

MINUTES

October 4, 2021

Meeting called to order at 8:53am

Subcommittee members present in person: Kim Reichelt, Jessica Polizzotti

Also present: Dr. Omar Easy

Members of the Public: Mike Hopps, Jeff Sklar

Public Comment:

Mike Hopps, 71 Moore Rd, CompSci/math teacher at WHS, troubled by proposed assessment return policy, as it assumes teachers aren't interested in students' success. Building trusting relationships is essential. Proposal is damaging to teacher morale, will damage relationship between school committee and upper administration, will push teachers to seek out districts who value teachers' efforts. In moving forward, start with the assumption that teachers are trying to do the right thing.

Jeff Sklar, Brooks Rd. I became a student advocate about a decade ago when students were being rejected from the National Honor Society based on the opinion of a single teacher, and since then have been watching for student rights. Agree that the assumption should be that the teachers are well-motivated, and most are. But there have been false rumors disseminated, and has met with the prior superintendent and asked that teachers speak with him if they believed their false rumors. The assumption that the teachers will always do the right thing is no longer earned. In college pre-calc last year, the students were given a month to prepare for their final exam, but teachers refused to help the students. The average on that final he is told was 35/100 on PreCalc final (a 15 if they randomly guessed), so it seems that the assumption that proper motivation is not true. Is retaliation the method used by the Wayland schools? It is time that the School Committee fix these things.

Kim made a statement that she had filed a disclosure statement with the Town Clerk regarding her familial relationship with a tutor, in light of the policy under discussion.

Policy Review

- **BDFA** - Dr. Easy updated the committee on the discussions he has had with administrators and teachers. He feels they are making good progress. Agreed with the High School principal that the math department will be returning all exams except for mid-terms and finals this year. He also had a good conversation with the science department, but needs more time to look into what the department is doing around not returning exams, particularly biology (chemistry and physics is more hit or miss). Access and equal opportunity is critical for students, need to make sure students are able to have access at a time that realistically works for them.. Do value the time and passion teachers put into their exams, but it is still important that we do what is best for kids.

Kim suggested that it would be useful to check what our peer districts are doing as far as exam return goes. Dr. Easy has begun to reach out to other superintendents. There is more work to do before we are ready to move ahead. For example, Dr. Easy wants to ensure consistency across all biology teachers, and will be looking to see results around what has happened in the past. The teachers feel the work is “safer with the teachers than the students” (some students may just discard their exams if returned), but students need to have accountability. Dr. Easy is planning to assemble a task force comprised of students, parents, teachers, and trained professionals around test return — wants more time to make this decision. Question at the moment is mostly around science, since he is comfortable for the moment at least with the agreement reached on math.

Jess is concerned that we have had this issue brought to the School Committee level, that this should be resolved at the school level, and wants to ensure that we support students in their learning, that we focus on being student-centric. Dr. Easy wants to ensure that it doesn't take having a parent who speaks up for students to get the support they need. Kim was fine with the current plan on math, but wanted to remain open that perhaps mid-terms and finals should be returned as well, and pointed to the Lexington High math website which contains links to their recent final exams. Dr. Easy said they are talking also to other departments, including at the Middle School.

Dr. Easy solicited thoughts on the task force. Kim suggested putting someone knowledgeable outside the district, like a Glenn Koocher, on the taskforce. Jess suggested including some different voices.

Minutes from September 20, 2021 passed over.

Dr. Easy left at 9:30am

Matters not anticipated. There were none

Motion to adjourn by Jessica, Kim seconded, vote 2-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:31am

Corresponding Documentation:

- **Agenda for October 4, 2021**
- **Policy BDFA**
- **Draft minutes from September 20, 2021**