

WCCUSD Governance Subcommittee

Alvarado Adult Education Campus

October 22, 2019

Minutes

I. Opening Procedures

A. Roll Call and Introductions

Chairperson Stephanie Hernández-Jarvis called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

Committee Members Present: Stephanie Hernández-Jarvis, Tom Panas

Staff Attendees: Matthew Duffy Superintendent; Debbie Haynie, Executive Secretary; Tashaka Merriweather, Coordinator Youth Development; Greg Whaling, Ellerhorst Principal; Tony Wold, Associate Superintendent Business Services

Chairperson Hernández-Jarvis provided opportunity for those in the audience to introduce themselves.

B. Approval of Agenda

Superintendent Duffy requested that the Student Cell Phone Policy item be handled as a discussion item in order to allow for additional opportunity for input.

Mr. Panas moved approval and Chairperson Hernández-Jarvis accepted the agenda as recommended. Motion carried.

C. Approval of Minutes September 25, 2019

Public Comment:

Mr. Anton Jungherr asked that the specifics of the motion regarding approval of the BP 7214.2 CBOC be included in the minutes.

Mr. Panas moved approval of the September 25, 2019 Minutes with the inclusion of the specific revisions to BP 7214.2 CBOC. Ms. Hernandez-Jarvis seconded. Motion carried.

D. Public Comment

None

II. Action Items

A. Student Cell Phone Policy

Superintendent Duffy provided background and input from UTR, WCCAA and PTA parents. Demetrio Gonzalez of UTR provided an updated copy of the policy under discussion.

Public Comment:

Mr. Greg Whaling, Ellerhorst Principal, shared his experience as a high school teacher and middle school principal, as well as procedure about cell phones currently in use at his school. He shared his practice of setting a “no phones” policy vetted with PTA, parents, teachers, and staff and how handled. He said he thought the progressive violation sequence noted in the policy could cause difficulty on campus. He remarked about other electronic devices such as smart watches and earphones, which have also become a distraction for students. His school policy is that all electronic devices are off and away. He said he would like to see legal exceptions allowed around educational purpose such as IEPs and medical

exemptions. He remarked that a ban could cause an impediment for underachieving students.

Superintendent Duffy asked Mr. Whaling about how his school's policy was enforced. Mr. Whaling said that a written policy was used, with two weeks of reminders at the beginning of the school year, followed by confiscation. Phones are returned to any adult listed on an emergency card. He said it has not caused a problem with any parent.

UTR President Demetrio Gonzalez shared that WCCAA and teachers have reviewed various revisions, with this seventh version also reviewed by the RYSE Center, Bayside PTA and some high schools. He has tracked input from all groups providing feedback. Mr. Gonzalez argued against autonomy for every site having individual policies. He supported progressive violations and proposed that policy language be vetted with the positive climate language.

Mr. Asédo Wilson, Richmond High teacher, supported language to address every specific device, with consistency throughout the district to enable clarity for classroom teachers. He advocated for allowing time for additional review to avoid loopholes.

Discussion:

Mr. Panas said he would like to see the policy about cell phone use in schools encompass students as well as adults. He spoke about a statement regarding responsible cell phone use on campus, saying it important for adults to use devices in a way that was instructionally necessary.

Chairperson Hernandez-Jarvis agreed about including a staff expectation. She also spoke about reviewing the policy using positive climate language to avoid criminalization. She supported classroom engagement efforts and deflection to avoid cyber bullying.

Mr. Panas inquired about a timeline to implement.

Superintendent Duffy talked about best practices and steps for school sites. Discussion continued. Mr. Gonzalez agreed to seek further input from principals. Superintendent Duffy also asked that the classified employees' union be included.

Superintendent Duffy thought that the Governance Committee could review again in November, with action in December in time for implementation with the second semester.

III. Discussion Items

A. Diversity and Equity Policy

Superintendent Duffy reported that he would bring policy models for review to the November meeting.

Public Comment:

None

Committee Discussion:

Mr. Panas spoke about clearly established expectations for diversity and equity, recalling Trustee Lara's samples. He was not asking staff to create a lengthy policy, but to ensure that students have access.

Chairperson Hernandez-Jarvis spoke about diversity, equity and inclusion affecting students

and work culture. She talked about planning for the future and hoped for an Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion using researched based information, and discussion of how this worked in other districts.

Superintendent Duffy responded about creating a culture and climate that allowed others to identify moments and challenge where not happening. Discussion continued.

Superintendent Duffy said he would consider the discussion in building a first draft for review.

B. Health and Wellness Policy

Mr. Tashaka Merriweather shared background to bring revision to various outdated policies under guidelines of the California Department of Education (CDE). He related that full services community schools and nutrition services have merged much of the work but received an audit finding during a recent CDE inspection.

Mr. Merriweather shared information about the work with various community-based organizations, personnel, and partners in development of a Health and Wellness policy that would be comprehensive and satisfy the audit finding requirements. Examples of wellness template, timeline and a wellness roadmap were reviewed. Mr. Merriweather said that he and the working group who have invested in the development of this policy would like direction for moving forward to enable families with a valuable resource.

Public Comment:

Peter Walker-Flom from YES Nature to Neighborhoods talked about several convenings with community partners and thoughts about content and format.

Tiffany Bell of Contra Costa County Health Services Community Wellness and Prevention Program spoke about the importance of moving the policy forward to implementation as health and wellness affects learning abilities.

Committee Discussion:

Discussion touched on working with full service community schools, mental health services, and how progress would be reported.

The Committee and Superintendent Duffy were in agreement to take the policy forward to the Board for review and recommendations.

IV. Governance Committee Next Meeting

Next meeting: Thursday, November 14, 2019, 6:00 PM

V. Adjournment

Chairperson Hernández-Jarvis adjourned the meeting at 7:20 PM.