

DRAFT
Minutes of Policy Committee Meeting
Monday, October 18, 2022

Via Zoom, with the exception of Sherry Sousa, and John Wysocki, who were in person at WUHS

In attendance: Policy Committee Chair Louis Piconi, Committee Members Sarah Adams, Samantha DiNatale, Clare Drebitko, Gina Rocque, Kelly Welsh; Sherry Sousa, Superintendent, and members of the public.

1. Meeting called to order at approximately 6:37 pm.
2. There were no amendments to the agenda.
3. Public Comment:
 - a. Matt Seiple expressed skepticism about the need for an anti-racism policy.
 - b. Maura Tynes thanked the Policy Committee for its ongoing work on the Naming and Fundraising Policies and commented on the new drafts before the Committee. She said that separating the topics into two policies makes both policies clearer. As to the Naming Policy, she asked for clarification of the phrase ‘further naming’ at 1.B. She indicated that C.2 raises concern about valuing financial contribution over other kinds of contributions. At C.3 she said that asking the Superintendent to report on impact on taxes of a gift asks too much of the Superintendent. She restated her view that the 60% of board votes to approve a name change is too low and should be increased to 2/3. As to the Fundraising Policy, she asked about the last sentence, which suggests that the new policy would supersede ‘all existing policies.’
 - c. Dennis Wright, President of the Woodstock Alumni Association said that the revised policies are much more acceptable, and noted that the Naming Policy will be on the Alumni Association’s agenda at its November 9 meeting.
 - d. John Wysocki (appearing in person at WUHS), Killington resident, expressed concern about the lack of planning for students who are sent home from school after testing positive for Covid-19, and wants the Board to know that he was dissatisfied with the administration’s response when he asked about the educational plan for students who are quarantining at home.

4. Antiracism Draft Policy

Sherry Sousa explained that the draft of the Antiracism Policy in tonight’s Board Packet is a work in progress. She has met with groups of parents, students and faculty, and will bring the policy back before the committee after feedback from these groups has been incorporated into the draft.

5. Naming draft policy

The committee discussed proposed clarifications and changes to the current draft.

- a. The language at B.1 re: 'further naming' may be misconstrued so as to invite multiple names of single facilities, programs, etc..
- b. The Committee also discussed the 25-year period of protection of named programs, facilities etc. proposed in the current draft. It was noted that if the Board adopts this policy as written, the 25-year protection will have already elapsed as to Daley Gym and Yoh Theater, and would elapse in 2022 as to Frates Field. The Committee agreed to create an exception for legacies that have lost their protection as of the enactment of the Naming Policy, but agreed that an addition 25 years is probably too much and would preclude future generations from honoring outstanding faculty and coaches.
- c. The Committee agreed with the suggestion to delete the language that would require the Superintendent to report on the tax impact of proposed gifts.
- d. The Committee discussed the 60% threshold for board approval of a name change, noting again that this is the same threshold for closing a school, and agreed that 60% is sufficiently high.
- e. Kelly agreed to circulate draft language to try to clarify the Committee's intent as to 'further naming,' and to extend 10 years of protection to legacies that are older than 25 years so as to protect these legacies in the event of a rebuild or renovation.
- f. Sarah asked whether Committee members have heard feedback about the Naming Policy from community members other than Alumni Association members, and while no one on the Committee had such feedback to share, it was noted that many people in the Alumni Association are also community members.
- g. Lou said that once he has received Kelly's edits, he will forward the revised Naming draft to the Board for First Reading.
- h. The Committee thanked Clare for taking the lead on separating Naming and Fundraising into separate policies and for her efforts to revise the Naming policy to reflect input from the community and the Committee.

6. Fundraising draft policy

The Committee agreed with Sherry's observation that much of the draft policy consists of procedure and that she should bring it back to the Committee with recommended changes. Sherry agreed to look at the language cited by Maura Tynes as to the effect of the new policy on existing policies if adopted.

7. Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Welsh