Meeting Summary for WCSB Policy committee 23/3/25

Policy 4.603 Promotion and Retention

- \*\*Introduction and Changes\*\*: The meeting began with a discussion on policy 4.603 regarding promotion and retention. Changes were made due to a recent State Board of Education regulation update, allowing for voluntary retention for K-2 students by parents or guardians. Requests must be submitted in writing within 30 days of the school year ending.

- \*\*Administrative Process\*\*: The district will provide guidance on the process, which will likely be communicated through principals.

- \*\*Voluntary Retention\*\*: This is the first year for voluntary retention, and there is uncertainty about how frequently it will be used.

- \*\*Eligibility and Documentation\*\*: The district must confirm eligibility for retention based on documented academic or behavioral delays.

Policy 2.805 Purchasing

- \*\*Proposed Changes\*\*: A board member proposed removing lines 10-12, which staff did not recommend due to potential conflicts with Tennessee law.

- \*\*Insurance Discussion\*\*: There was a discussion about the possibility of bidding insurance to save costs, but it was noted that the county government is responsible for insurance plans. [38:00]

Policy 3.604 Public Records Requests

- \*\*Definitions and Procedures\*\*: New definitions for "confidential record" and "labor" were proposed. The process for requesting records was clarified, including the use of a public records request form.

- \*\*Notification and Proof of Citizenship\*\*: Employees or board members will be notified within three business days if their records are requested. Proof of Tennessee citizenship is required unless the requester is known.

Policy 4.301 Interscholastic Sports

- \*\*Use of School Names\*\*: Discussion on the use of school names by non-school-sponsored activities, with a focus on cheerleading camps. The policy aims to prevent misuse of school names and ensure fairness.

Policy 4.7001 Semester and Final Exams

- \*\*Exemption for High School Students\*\*: A proposal was made to extend exam exemptions to all high school students, not just seniors, to incentivize attendance and performance. [1:55:00]

- \*\*Concerns and Data\*\*: There were concerns about the impact on students' preparation for college exams and the potential increase in absences.

Policy 5.101 Line and Staff Relations and 5.803 Organizational Charts

- \*\*Consolidation\*\*: These policies were proposed to be consolidated, with some outdated language removed. There was a suggestion to post the organizational chart on the website for transparency.

Policy 5.118 Criminal Background Investigations

- \*\*WRAP Back Program\*\*: The district has joined the WRAP Back program, which connects state and federal criminal databases. This will replace the five-year re-fingerprinting process for employees.

Library Materials Policy

- \*\*Mature Materials List\*\*: A proposal was made to create a mature materials list for books with content that may not be appropriate for all students. Parents would have the option to opt-in for their children to access these materials.

- \*\*Decision Tree\*\*: The decision tree for book reconsideration was revised to start with the Age Appropriate Materials Act criteria.

- \*\*Opt-In vs. Opt-Out\*\*: There was a debate on whether the default should be opt-in or opt-out for accessing mature materials.

General Discussion

- \*\*Parental Involvement and Communication\*\*: Emphasis was placed on improving communication with parents regarding student performance and access to educational materials.

- \*\*Future Steps\*\*: The board plans to continue discussions on these policies, with input from librarians and further review of the proposed changes.