

Stacie Raterman

From: David Stewart
Sent: Wednesday, September 14, 2022 2:30 PM
To: Mike Mcdonough;Board
Subject: Re: 9/16

Good afternoon:

Yesterday I shared with you my concerns over the suggested changes to policy JHC. I am writing to you now to follow up on that.

To be clear, I don't believe that Beth has any ill intent with regards to her suggestion. What I do believe, however, is that the policy in question is currently inextricably linked to issues that are incredibly divisive in our community right now. Regardless of Beth's intent, my fear is that the debate that will undoubtedly ensue will be focused on one set of issues and will further divide our community and once again put the spotlight on a very vulnerable population of students.

Our new Policy BF says the following: ***The agenda for the Policy Review Committee will be set by the Superintendent/designee in consultation with the Board members on the Policy Review Committee.***

I have consulted with both Brian and Beth about this particular item on the agenda. After much thought I have asked Mike, in accordance with Policy BF, not to place policy JHC on the Policy Review Committee agenda for Friday. I do not do this to be adversarial in any way and I would never do so just because I disagree with a policy. I do so to ask the board to pause and think through the ramifications of doing this right now. I do understand that I do not have ultimate control over the agenda and that if any 2 board members request in writing that it be placed on the agenda, it will be done.

If there are concerns about our implementation of the current policy, I am happy to speak with any of you about them. It is certainly possible that any concerns can be addressed through a change in practice and would not require a change in policy. Additionally, if any of you would like me to schedule individual meetings with people like nurses, counselors, social workers, etc. about how the current policy is implemented I would be happy to try to set that up for you. I cannot compel them to have these conversations, but my gut tells me they would be eager to do so. If they would not be interested, I could certainly make sure that you could have access to the administrators that oversee their work.

Again, I hope you understand MY intent in doing this and how strong my concerns are for me to send this. Again, I understand that I don't have the final say here, but I want to do anything I can to ask you all to think through whether this is what is best for HCSD right now.

Thank you for your time:

David