

Board of Education – Policy Committee
Williamsville Community Unit School District #15
Williamsville, Illinois 62693
August 24, 2015
6:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jack Caldwell, Matt Seman, Charlie Waugh, Teresa Benner, Pam Kovacevich, Corey Conklin and Tom Ray

ADMINISTRATION & STAFF:

Dave Root, Doug Furlow, Janis Lindsey and Becky Miller

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm.

The Board reviewed the following policy:

7:10 AP – Administrative Procedure – Accommodating Transgender Students or Gender Non-Conforming Students

Mr. Root provided the Board with some background information regarding transgendered students and how we have utilized universal restrooms for students in our school district. In the last few years, the district has had transgendered students safely utilizing the universal restroom in the high school.

Recently, a GSA advocacy group met with Mr. Root and other members of the high school staff to discuss allowing transgendered students the use of the male restroom and locker rooms. Mr. Root stated that the Office of Civil Rights has noted that while there is currently no law on the books requiring schools to do so, they are looking at allowing students to use the bathroom / locker room of the gender they identify with, not the bathroom of the gender they were born with, noting that separate is not equal.

Mr. Root further stated that our students have generally been pretty accepting of transgendered students, although he is greatly concerned about bullying and student safety. He noted any issues with something like this may arise more from parents or community members more so than the students. It was also noted that the law determines our policies, not people's perception, culture, or comfort level related to the issue.

Mr. Furlow stated that when a student comes to the administration stating they are transgender, or identifying as the opposite of that which they were born, their name is changed according to their choice and pronouns used to refer to them are updated. He noted that currently if a transgendered student has their gender changed on their birth certificate, they would be able to use the bathroom / locker room of the gender on their certificate.

After discussion, the Board was in full agreement that we will maintain our current process, but will make additional adjustments should there be any changes in the law requiring the school district to allow this to occur. As a public school district, the Board noted that the rights of ALL of our students are very important and we will continue to follow the laws in place. Mr. Root will keep the board posted on any changes in the law requiring a change for facility use of transgender students.

A motion was made by Matt Seman and seconded by Pam Kovacevich to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:01pm.

Submitted by Jenny Brennan, Recording Secretary