

**DRAFT: RESOLUTION OF WPS60 PARENT-TEACHER ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
REGARDING IMPROPER USE EXCLUSION FROM CLASSROOM  
BY THE WAUKEGAN COMMUNITY UNIT #60 SCHOOL DISTRICT**

June 18, 2020

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 100 (“SB100”) was enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Illinois; and

WHEREAS, **SB100 states, “school boards may not institute zero-tolerance policies by which school administrators are required to suspend or expel students for particular behaviors;” SB100, 105 ILCS 5/10-22.6(b-10);** and

WHEREAS, **“out-of-school suspension of 3 days or less may be used only if the student’s continuing presence in school would pose a threat to school safety or a disruption to other students’ learning opportunities;” SB100;** and

WHEREAS, **“unless otherwise required by this Code, out-of-school suspensions of longer than 3 days, expulsions, and disciplinary removals to alternative schools may be used only if other appropriate and available behavioral and disciplinary interventions have been exhausted and the student’s continuing presence in school would either (i) pose a threat to the safety of other students, staff, or members of the school community or (ii) substantially disrupt, impede, or interfere with the operation of the school;” SB100;** and

WHEREAS, administrators of Waukegan Community Unit #60 School District have consistently demonstrated zero-tolerance policies to exclude students from the classroom in defiance of SB100; and

WHEREAS, administrators have used missed detention as a zero-tolerance basis for exclusion from the classroom for a full day stating, “Student earned a detention but failed to serve it during the specified time frame;” Weekly Suspension Reports, March 1-7; and

WHEREAS, the zero-tolerance policy for missed detentions was used as a basis for exclusion from the classroom learning environment for a full day at least TWENTY-ONE times for twenty-one different students according to Weekly Suspension Reports, March 1-7, 2020; and

WHEREAS, poor attendance is reported by administrators as a basis for exclusion from the classroom as a matter of course in violation of SB 100 with school district stating, “Student was seen in the hallways, multiple times, yesterday. Student was redirected towards class multiple times also. After a check of student’s attendance, it was noted that she skipped 2 classes and was late to 2 others;” Weekly Suspension Reports, March 1-7; and

WHEREAS, “clear trends of skipping class” was used as a basis for a full day of exclusion from the classroom in Weekly Suspension Reports for March 1-7, 2020; and

WHEREAS, a student, whose infraction was the use of disrespectful language, reported (to the person filling out the suspension/exclusion from class report) that his mother would hit him and curse him when called by the school, and the school administrator’s response ignored the possible danger to the student at home and instead identified the student as a disturbance to the classroom and called security to remove the student from the classroom; and

WHEREAS, for example, a two-day exclusion from classroom was imposed on students of color for “skipping class hiding in the \_\_\_ locker room;” and

WHEREAS, **a five-day suspension for a Black student skipping class** was a violation of SB 100 and improperly identified as an act of gross disobedience (contrary to Handbook definition and policy) on March 4, 2020; Weekly Suspension Reports; and

WHEREAS, **a five-day suspension for a Latinx student skipping class** was an improper consequence per SB 100 on March 4, 2020; Weekly Suspension Reports; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education through its counsel, through the superintendent, and through public comments at its own meetings have been notified of improper exclusion from the classroom; and

WHEREAS, attending school is a property right and not a privilege; and

WHEREAS, Waukegan Community Unit #60 School District has openly deprived its students of their property rights to education; and

WHEREAS, the Parent-Teacher Advisory Committee has requested through internal means and through FOIA the dollar-value of a day’s education for an individual student; and

WHEREAS, the administration has yet to reply regarding said dollar-value; and

WHEREAS, academic enrichment, tutors, and other ongoing academic support for students whose rights have been denied would be a demonstration of good faith intent to educate all students on the part of Waukegan Community Unit #60 School District;

WHEREAS, Waukegan Community Unit #60 School District has delayed, ignored, or denied its responsibility to present its plan for ratification to the Board of Education to reduce the disproportionality in discipline with respect to race; and

WHEREAS, systemic racism has been identified as present in Waukegan Community Unit #60 School District the data collected by the Illinois State Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, the Parent-Teacher Advisory Committee (“PTAC”) serves this Board of Education as a community advisory committee; and

WHEREAS, PTAC believes and trusts that this Board of Education takes seriously its ethical and legal responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, the PURPOSE of a community advisory committee is to provide advice and guidance to the Board of Education from voices other than those of the superintendent; and

**BE IT RESOLVED that the Parent-Teacher Advisory Committee (PTAC) respectfully requests that the Board of Education:**

1. Advise its staff administrators and counsel to notify parents or guardians of students (who have been excluded from the classroom *as a consequence of absence from the classroom*) of a dedicated academic enrichment program for their students; and
2. Direct the staff administrators to facilitate direct communication between PTAC and parents of students whose suspensions have been identified by PTAC as questionable or improper and worthy of appeal or reversal; and
3. Address the racism-by-proxy in which this Board of Education actively supports systemic racism by censoring the Handbook-recommendation by PTAC that made clear that no student can be suspended or removed from classroom learning environments as a consequence of absence or tardiness; and
4. Address the racism-by-proxy in which this Board of Education actively supports systemic racism by allowing administrators to suspend students or to remove students from classroom-learning environments as a consequence of absence or tardiness; and
5. Correct the records of students who have been suspended or removed from classroom-learning environments as a consequence of absence or tardiness; and
6. Advise teachers, administrators, parents, guardians, and students that no student can be suspended from the classroom or removed from the classroom-environment as a consequence of absence or tardiness; and
7. Direct its administrators to assess the dollar-value of a day of education and to compensate families whose children have been deprived of their education by improper removal from the classroom; and
8. Develop a plan that adds services and programs throughout the school district to enrich the academic experience of black students; and
9. Provide training and development for all faculty, staff, and administrators regarding unconscious bias;
10. Remove teachers from classroom positions who fail to demonstrate cultural sensitivity and awareness; and

11. Improve hiring practices to prevent the hiring of teachers or staff who fear Black people;  
and
12. Conduct internal examinations regarding unconscious bias to recognize the problems perpetuated by an administration that refuses to acknowledge and address the disproportionate effects of ongoing policies on Black students both in academic achievement and in disciplinary action.