

**DRAFT: RESOLUTION OF WPS60 PARENT-TEACHER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TO REQUEST AN APPROPRIATE FIRST READING POLICY
WITHIN THE WAUKEGAN COMMUNITY UNIT #60 SCHOOL DISTRICT
FOR THE HANDBOOK ON STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

~~June 18, 2020-Updates~~

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

WHEREAS, attempts to stifle communication from parents to the Board of Education run counter to the purpose of community committees; and

~~WHEREAS, at least one of the co-chairs has been directed to prevent the vote on this Resolution by the District’s director of operations; and~~

~~WHEREAS, the co-chair was told not to schedule the July meeting at which the vote is scheduled to occur; and~~

~~WHEREAS, co-chairs of the Parent-Teacher Advisory Committee are staff administrators whose superintendent, superiors or supervisors in their work environment may direct the co-chairs to act against the public community votes and public community voices of the Parent-Teacher Advisory Committee; and~~

WHEREAS, PTAC as a community advisory committee seeks to lift up the voices of parents, students, and teachers so that the Board of Education has access to those voices; and

WHEREAS, PTAC welcomes public participation (and the possibility of membership) of parents, teachers, students, community members, and any interested parties at all meetings; and

~~WHEREAS, teachers, parents, students, and other members of the public seek greater transparency on the part of the Board of Education, a public body; and~~

~~WHEREAS, at the June 30, 2020, Facebook Live event, community members stated that the administrators of Waukegan Community Unit #60 School District (“the District”) operate in secret instead of working on policies openly; and~~

~~WHEREAS, one person wrote in the chat, “. . . and these focus groups or committees always seem to be secretive. Nobody knows who is ‘chosen’ or why.” Facebook Live, June 30, 2020, Waukegan; and~~

WHEREAS, another person in the same chat wrote, “Who the heck was in these focus groups?” demonstrating general concern about the lack of transparency; and

WHEREAS, parents and teachers wish to contribute to shape policy, while the education and expertise of teachers is scorned by the District; and

~~this Board of Education through Board Member comments on June 9, 2020, has indicated an interest in the disparities and inequities within the District affecting black boys and girls; and~~

~~WHEREAS, the Handbook continues to include policies that promote and support systemic racism; and~~

WHEREAS, counsel for the District prevents a meaningful dialogue between the Board of Education and its advisory committee by censoring and misrepresenting recommendations of the Parent-Teacher Advisory Committee; and

~~WHEREAS, counsel has misrepresented to its client in its Powerpoint presentation and in its spoken explanations to this Board of Education, the censored sections and various changes it has made to the Handbook; and~~

WHEREAS, one ~~such~~ misrepresentation states in general counsel’s slide presentation, for example, was the statement that purported to describe its “edit” of the letter from PTAC to the parents and students, “PTAC letter -clarified purpose statement and removed references to prospective set meeting dates/times in the event there is a change in schedule for next year,” when, in fact, counsel (1) materially altered the purpose statement; (2) removed the unconditional invitation to parents to attend the meetings; (3) removed both the school-based and confidential email addresses for parents to use to contact PTAC; (4) removed the invitation to contact PTAC at any time; (5) removed the information about dates and locations of the meetings with the effect of requiring parents to call the school or use the Internet (if they have Internet access) to find out when and where the meetings are; and

WHEREAS, a second such misrepresentation was the omission of any reference to the censorship by counsel or administrators of SB100-based corrections inserted by PTAC that were deleted by counsel regarding suspensions for tardiness or absences from the classroom; and

WHEREAS, a third misrepresentation involves the basis for the change recommended by PTAC regarding the release of information to the police department (and puts the interests of the police above the interests of students, parents, and their advocates); and

WHEREAS, a fourth misrepresentation is in the omission of the censorship and deletion of a release of information opt-out page for parents to release directory information to the Parent-Teacher Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, a fifth misrepresentation about the scope and intent of the Handbook and PTAC denies the statutory purpose of the PTAC that is to have PTAC work with the Board of Education on both discipline policy and the implementation of discipline policies; and

WHEREAS, the Handbook included recommendations about implementation and how to discuss complicated issues regarding students' rights; and

WHEREAS, administrative removal of these important questions from the discussion between the Board of Education and PTAC prevents both the Board of Education and PTAC from fulfilling their statutory obligation to work on implementation of policies; and

WHEREAS, counsel or staff administrators (and **not** the Parent-Teacher Advisory Committee) created the Handbooks that went through board review and appeared on Board Docs *as if they were produced by the Parent-Teacher Advisory Committee*; and

WHEREAS, the Handbook document presented to this Board on Board Docs was neither approved by the Parent-Teacher Advisory Committee nor based on a complete document that was approved by the Parent-Teacher Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has been incorrectly told that the co-chairs represent PTAC; and

WHEREAS, the chair (in past years) and co-chairs have failed in their responsibilities as chairs by refusing to act on behalf of PTAC; and

WHEREAS, PTAC developed this Resolution to present to the Board of Education in order to avoid censorship; and

WHEREAS, the Parent-Teacher Advisory Committee and the school board are by law required to together develop "policy guidelines on pupil discipline, **including school searches**," (105 ILCS 5/10-20.14); and

WHEREAS, the Handbook has been materially altered by employees of the School District such that the Documents no longer serve the Waukegan parents, families or teachers as intended by the Parent-Teacher Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, alterations to the Handbook materially change the rights of students and their families; and

WHEREAS, the Open Meetings Act and the reasons for publicly posting documents are foiled by the actions of the BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE WAUKEGAN COMMUNITY UNIT #60 SCHOOL DISTRICT,

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

1. Refuse any proffered PTAC recommendation for the Handbook that is not accompanied by a Resolution or Certification that the Parent-Teacher Advisory Committee has submitted it; and
2. Return to First Reading status all documents drafted by the Parent-Teacher Advisory Committee that have been altered; and
3. Demand that Counsel or any designee of the superintendent or school district who reviews the Handbook make no changes to the Handbook without an open meeting to discuss each change with the Parent-Teacher Advisory Committee; and
4. Demand that Counsel's presentation regarding its reasons for changes be accompanied by a Parent-Teacher Advisory Committee presentation; and
5. Allow a representative of the Parent-Teacher Advisory Committee who does not answer to the superintendent or administration of the school district present the Handbook to the Board of Education at both First Reading and Second Reading in order to provide this Board of Education the advisory support intended by the committee's existence.