

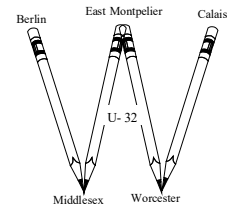
# Washington Central Unified Union School District

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*WCUUSD exists to nurture and inspire in all students the passion, creativity and power to contribute to their local and global communities.*

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1130 Gallison Hill Road  
Montpelier, VT 05602  
Phone (802) 229-0553  
Fax (802) 229-2761



**Washington Central Unified Union School District  
Community Forum  
(IN-PERSON w/ LIVESTREAM OPTION)  
U-32  
930 Gallison Hill Rd. Montpelier, VT  
Rm 128/131  
10.5.22 6:00-9:00 PM**

**Virtual Option Information**  
**<https://tinyurl.com/3ud7xshw>**

- |  |              |
|--|--------------|
| 1. Community Forum (Cafeteria)                         | 6:00-6:50 PM |
| 1.1. Community Mapping - pg. 3                         |              |
| 2. Call to Order                                       |              |
| 3. Board Learning (Phil Gore, Facilitator) (Cafeteria) | 7:00-7:45 PM |
| 4. Executive Session – Student Matter (Rm. 128/131)    | 8:00 PM      |
| 5. Adjourn   |              |

NOTE: To ensure the board has time to conduct its business, the board will adhere to a strict 1.5 minute public comment time limit per person. Microphones will be muted when time is up. If there is not enough time on the agenda for all members of the public wishing to comment at the beginning of the meeting, there is additional public comment at the end of the meeting.

**Washington Central Unified Union School District**  
**WCUUSD Board Norms - Adopted November 18, 2020**

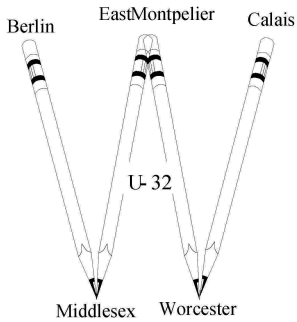
- **Public input** –Notify the community about public forums and opportunities for public comment at board meetings.
- **Community involvement during regular meetings of the board** – Every meeting will include at least one opportunity for public comment. Public comment is an opportunity for board members to listen and ask clarifying questions. If a board member feels a concern raised in public comment warrants further board discussion, they may request that the issue be added to a future agenda.
- **Community dialogue** – The board may periodically schedule community forums that allow for dialogue, questions and answers from the board or the district leadership team.
- **Stay on time** – Start and end on time. The chair may appoint a time-keeper.
- **All voices will be heard** – Every board member gets a chance to speak. Some topics warrant having each board member speak in turn to ensure full representation.
- **Reflection** –To allow time for reflection, the chair and agenda steering committee will plan time for complex or contentious issues to be discussed at more than one meeting before the board votes, except where a decision is urgent.
- **Announcements in reports** – Announcements from the administration will appear in the reports and not as discussion items.
- **Role of the board** – At the end of each board meeting reflect on whether the board remained focused on its policy-making and oversight role during the meeting, rather than operational details that are the responsibility of leadership team.
- **Respect each other** – Listen, allow others to be heard, share concerns, assume positive intentions, be present, and celebrate successes.

Agenda Section	Examples	Role/Responsibility	Description
Call to Order	n/a	Board Chair or designee	Formal opening to meeting. Superintendent calls to order during annual reorganization
Public Comment			Opportunity for public comment on items not on the agenda. Board will adhere to a strict 1.5 minute public comment time limit per person. Microphones will be muted when time is up. If there is not enough time on the agenda for all members of the public wishing to comment at the beginning of the meeting, there is additional public comment at the end of the meeting.
Executive Session	Personnel Student Matter Negotiations		Only for discussion of items covered in VSA §313. Formal actions not taken in Executive Session
Reports to the Board	Superintendent/ COLT Student Report	Administration	Both regular/recurring reports and one-time reports happen here. One-time reports are determined by the Board workplan or requested by the will of the Board. Generally, reports invite clarifying questions but not formal discussion/action
Committee Reports	Finance Policy Education Quality	Board	Chair of the committee reports on substance of most recent committee meeting. Generally, reports invite clarifying questions; any discussion or action items would be listed in the respective section of the agenda
Discussion Items		Board with input from administration	Items on the agenda specifically for discussion of the Board. Chair can seek input from audience during discussions. Generally not intended for action (although nothing prevents the Board from taking an action)
Action Items	Personnel approvals	Board	Items formally on the agenda for Board action. Discussion can occur after a motion is on the table
Consent Agenda	Board Orders Minutes	Board	Designed for items that need proforma approval and/or are sufficiently routine. Board acts on all items in the Consent agenda and does not discuss any item unless it is pulled out during Agenda Adjustments

# *Understanding Our Communities*

**WCUUSD COMMUNITY FORUM**

**OCTOBER 5, 2022**



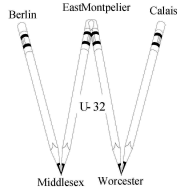
# Land Acknowledgment

U-32 is located on the land which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange among indigenous peoples for thousands of years and is home of the Western Abenaki People. U-32 honors, recognizes and respects these peoples, especially the Abenaki, as the traditional stewards of the lands and waters on which we gather today. In that spirit, today we will begin by acknowledging that we are guests in this land. We need to respect and help protect the lands within our use.



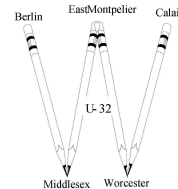


# ACTIVITY OUTLINE



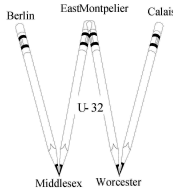
- **6:00-6:10:** *Welcome & Opening Comments*
- **6:10-6:30:** *Table Activity - Town-Alike Groups*
- **6:30-6:40:** *Gallery Walk*
- **6:40-6:50:** *Summarize & Reflect*

# Meet & Greet Themes



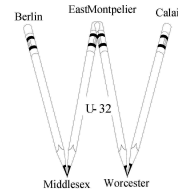
- **What are the most effective ways for you to receive information?**
  - From my local school (biggest percentage)
  - Superintendent newsletters
- **What are the most effective ways for you to share information with us?**
  - Surveys
  - School Board meetings & forums
- **What else should we know?**
  - Sometimes we receive too many emails! Prioritize...

# WCUUSD Board Goals



- Educational & Academic Outcomes
- *Community Engagement*
- Long-term Planning

# ♥ TABLE ACTIVITY (20 minutes)

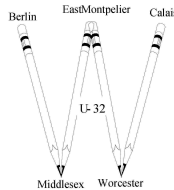


We will gather at town-alike tables. At the table, there will be some chart paper with some prompts about your town. Discuss and record your answers to each prompt.

- What are the gathering places in our town?
- Who are some of the key community organizations in our town?
- Who are some of the voices we miss in our town? How could we engage them?
- What else?



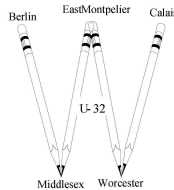
# GALLERY WALK (10 minutes)



This portion is designed to get perspectives from those outside of our local towns. In groups of 2-3, go around to the tables of the other towns in the district. Read their chart paper and reflect together about what you see. Take a marker and add your thoughts:

- Do you have anything to add to any of their lists?
- Do you have ideas for engaging?
- Do any questions come up for you?

# REFLECTIONS (10 minutes)



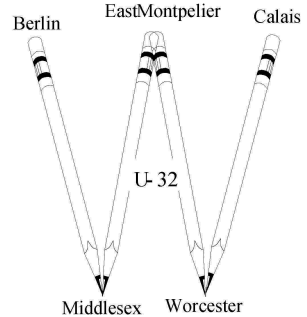
This is a chance for us to reflect on what we learned tonight. Participants are encouraged to share:

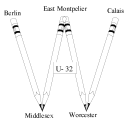
- Any “ah-ha” moments
- Something you learned
- Something you think we need to consider next

# THANK YOU!

IF YOU DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE TO SHARE  
YOUR THOUGHTS, TRY THIS LINK:

<https://forms.gle/euVjo5FC4YjGQBjx8>





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### **Superintendent and Board Meet & Greet: Summary of Input**

On September 7, we held a Superintendent and Board Meet & Greet at U-32. This was a wonderful opportunity for me to connect with the community members who were able to attend, and gather some initial information as part of a broader focus on engaging our communities. As part of that event, we also kept an input survey open from late August through mid-September, asking the same questions as at the Forum:

- What are the most effective ways for you to receive information from the District?
- What kinds of things are you most interested in hearing from the District about?
- What are the most helpful ways for you to share your input with the District and Superintendent?
- What else would you like us to know?

We received some wonderful feedback from both the survey and the in-person activity, with just over sixty participants responding or participating. I plan on using this information to refine my communications with the community, and to inform the Board's ongoing efforts to understand our communities and the best way to engage with them.

Here are some highlights of what we learned:

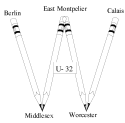
- What are the most effective ways for you to receive information from the District?

The vast majority of respondents (86%) prefer to receive their information through their local school's newsletter or other communications. A close second (67%) identified Superintendent newsletters as their preferred methods. Very few of those who responded indicated social media as a preferred method (less than 10%), but about a quarter did indicate they use Front Porch Forum

In addition, a number of respondents/participants indicated that the frequency of email communication can be challenging when taken together (local and district). This feedback was given both via survey and by those attending the event. I've taken this into consideration as I consider adjustments to my communications to families moving forward.

- What are the kinds of things you would like to hear from the District?

Since many families already receive their information about school events from their schools, respondents indicated a number of other things they would like to hear from the District. This input was collected by way of written comments, so I'm sharing some of the themes that were common across respondent:



- Information about district-wide and coordinated events and initiatives (e.g., equity work, curriculum, opportunities for input, and strategic planning)
- Events and public meetings (Board meetings, budget development)
- Rationale and reasoning behind district-wide decisions such as health & safety
- Supports for students (academic and activities)
- Volunteer opportunities

➤ What are the most effective ways for you to share your input with the District?

About a third of respondents indicated that School Board meetings and virtual forums are a good way to provide input, with slightly fewer (about 20%) specifically identifying the community forums as helpful.

Interestingly, a large number of both survey respondents and in person participants indicated that surveys are a good way to gather input and feedback. As a result, I am considering a more regular input survey to include in my community letters. This is also helpful when we need to gather topic-specific input.

➤ What else would you like us to know?

Although this question prompted mostly individualized responses, there were some themes. Respondents want us to know that school safety is important to them, as is our district humanity and justice work. There were several kind comments of thanks to our teachers, staff and administrators throughout the pandemic (which I echo!).

This information, while admittedly representing a relatively small portion of our school communities, was important and helpful. I plan on sharing the specific survey results and comments with our principals, as some of the input will be helpful to them at the local level as well. This information is a helpful part of the Board's broader focus on community engagement, and is a great building block for that work.