

# Washington Central Unified Union School District

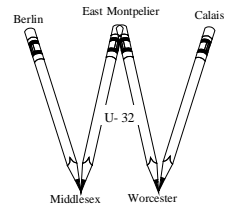
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*WCUUSD exists to nurture and inspire in all students the passion, creativity and power to contribute to their local and global communities.*

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Bryan Olkowski  
Superintendent



## Washington Central Unified Union School District Board Meeting Minutes Approved 3.29.21 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM

**Board Members:** Flor Diaz Smith, Lindy Johnson, Scott Thompson, Diane Nichols-Fleming, Kari Bradley, Jonas Eno-Van Fleet, Karoline May, Christina Pollard, Stephen Looke, Chris McVeigh, Jill Olson, Dorothy Naylor

**Administrators:** Superintendent Bryan Olkowski, Carla Messier, Jim Garrity, Casey Provost, Gillian Fuqua, Cat Fair, Kelly Bushey, Lori Bibeau, Steven Dellinger-Pate, Aaron Boynton, Alicia Lyford

**Others/Public:** Honi Bean Barrett, Julia Pritchard, Rosemary Leach

**1. Call to Order: Flor Diaz Smith called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.**

Dorothy Naylor said she and her husband were moving out of state at the end of the summer, and she will resign her seat in June. She is grateful for her family's support, and is comfortable doing the work ahead over the next few months. She asks anyone who knows someone in Calais who might want to fill the seat to talk to them. She says that after the Act 46 process she has appreciated working with people she may have disagreed with, and will miss serving on the Board.

**2. Executive Session – Personnel:**

**At 5:07, Scott Thompson moved to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters, to include Carla Messier, Lori Bibeau, and Cat Fair. Seconded by Chris McVeigh, this motion carried unanimously.** At 5:53, Cat Fair, Carla Messier, and Lori Bibeau left Executive Session.

**At 6:16, Jonas Eno-Van Fleet moved to leave Executive Session. Seconded by Scott Thompson, this motion, carried unanimously.** During Executive Session the Board discussed personnel matters. **Jonas Eno-Van Fleet moved to authorize a reduction in force of a .4 FTE Elementary Art Teacher and a .1 FTE Elementary Music Teacher. Seconded by Dorothy Naylor, this motion carried with two No votes from Karoline May and Chris McVeigh.** Lindy Johnson was not able to vote after being inadvertently dropped from the Zoom meeting.

**3. Personnel:**

**Jonas Eno-Van Fleet moved to approve a new teacher nomination for Brennan Lynch as a U-32 Special Educator. Seconded by Dorothy Naylor, this motion carried unanimously.**

**Jonas Eno-Van Fleet moved to approve the resignations of Casey LeClerc, U-32 School Nurse; Christina Strobridge, Doty Pre-K Teacher; Meta Bravos, Calais Music Teacher; Jennifer Britel, U-32 School Nurse; and Robert Reade, East Montpelier Pre-K Teacher. Seconded by Stephen Looke, this motion carried unanimously.**

**Jonas Eno-Van Fleet moved to approve leave of absence requests from Christine Fitch, U-32 (extended leave request, remainder of 2020-2021 school year); Nicolle Schaeffer, U-32 (leave request of .4 FTE for FY22, reducing FTE to .6); Ben Heintz, U-32 (leave request of .6 FTE, reducing FTE to .4), including congratulations for earning a Rowland Fellowship. Seconded by Scott Thompson, this motion carried unanimously.**

**Jonas Eno-Van Fleet moved to approve the retirement of Mark Chaplin, U-32 Science Teacher, with special thanks and congratulations for 47 years of teaching and coaching at U-32. Seconded by Scott Thompson, this motion carried unanimously.**

Chris McVeigh said Mark Chaplin is a phenomenon that we will miss in our U-32 community.

Lindy Johnson asked if Mark Chaplin's letter was just "I'm retiring?" Steven Dellinger-Pate said the letter was very plain. Lindy Johnson said Mark Chaplin's sense of humor and sense of bringing children forward was excellent, and people like Mark Chaplin and his wife Cathy are rare. Scott Thompson said Kari Bradley will remember that the U-32 board voted to name the new track after Mark and Cathy, and perhaps that's something that we can consider as a board to make some sort of statement. Flor Diaz-Smith said a number of people's children were affected by Mark Chaplin, and it will be discussed at another meeting. Bryan Olkowski said there was a typo in Brennan Lynch's form, he is replacing Susan Pryce, not Susan Mayette.

Chris McVeigh asked if the district will maintain the online school for students, and remarked that Bryan Olkowski said the district will receive a windfall of federal funds, and that the board should sit at the table for discussions of what to do with those funds. Dorothy Naylor asked if some other school districts will encourage some of our valued teachers to move to another place using those funds. Bryan Olkowski said he welcomes board input but would prefer to have the leadership team get together first then think about ways to bring the board into the conversation. Flor Diaz-Smith said that would be added as a future agenda item.

- 4. Adjourn: At 6:26 Scott Thompson moved to adjourn. Seconded by Chris McVeigh, the motion carried unanimously.**

Minutes taken by  
Jonas Eno-Van Fleet, Clerk

