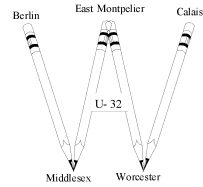


Washington Central Unified Union School District

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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Debra Taylor, Ph.D.
Interim Superintendent



Washington Central Unified Union School District

Board Meeting Minutes - Approved

6.3.20 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Present by Teleconference*:

Board Members: Flor Diaz Smith, Lindy Johnson, Scott Thompson, Diane Nichols-Fleming, Dorothy Naylor, Stephen Looke, Chris McVeigh, Marylynne Strachan, Kari Bradley, Jill Olson, Jonas Eno-Van Fleet, George Gross, Jaiel Pulskamp, Student Rep. Mia Smith and Townes DeGroot

Administrators: Superintendent Debra Taylor, Business Administrator Lori Bibeau, Technology Director Keith MacMartin, Director of Curriculum Jen Miller-Arsenault, Director of Student Services Kelly Bushey, U-32 Principal Steven Dellinger-Pate, U-32 Associate Principal Jody Emerson, U-32 Student Affairs Director Amy Molina

Other: ORCA videographer, Dave Delcore (Times Argus), David Lawrence

1.0 Call to Order: Scott Thompson called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

2.0 Committee Meetings – were held in breakout sessions

- 2.1 Quality Education
- 2.2 Negotiations

3.0 Welcome: Scott Thompson welcomed everyone back at 7:00 p.m.

3.1 Reception of Guests
3.2 Agenda Revisions: Scott Thompson suggested having an executive session for “Part 1” of a debrief with Debra Taylor from her interim year as superintendent.

Flor Diaz Smith stated that she would like to add VSBA / VSA/ VPA affirmation statement (re: systemic racism) to the agenda. This will be during Board Operations discussion.

3.3 Public Comments: Scott Thompson invited public participation. David Lawrence stated that his main interest at this time is hearing how return to school in the fall might play out.

3.4 Student Reports: Mia Smith shared that the anniversary of raising the Black Lives Matter flag at U2 is approaching. She stated that there is a Zoom event planned (3:30 tomorrow, Thursday, June 4th); she invited board members to attend. Mia and Townes reported on the end of year experiences of students.

4.0 Board Operations

4.1 Affirm the board's support to the VSBA/ VSA/ VPA Re: Systemic Racism
Flor Diaz Smith moved: WCUUSD School Board wants to support our students and staff of color. We want to reaffirm the statements of VSBA/ VSA/ VPA and also continue to educate ourselves so we can continue to support our communities. We want to be part of the solution; this is a priority. Seconded by Jaiel Pulkamp. Discussion: Townes DeGroot stated that simply making a statement is not sufficient and he hopes it is not seen as an "action." Flor Diaz Smith stated that she was impressed with Steven Dellinger-Pate's letter today, explaining the activities at U-32. This motion carried unanimously.

4.2 Report Teacher/Staff Appreciation Group (please see notes below, after Executive Session.)

4.3 Superintendent Transition Update –July 1, 2020: Superintendent Taylor reported that she has been meeting with Bryan Olkowski (future superintendent) weekly. The Leadership Team will be meeting next week to talk about re-entry plans for the fall; Bryan will take part in that meeting. Kelly Bushey stated that a group of four will be meeting with him on Friday after to review the feedback around his transition plan.

Scott Thompson stated that he is currently working on the mentoring contract for Bryan.

4.4 Blanket Authorization for Check Orders: **Lindy Johnson moved to approve the blanket authorization as presented. Seconded by Chris McVeigh. This motion carried unanimously. Board members will sign this document.**

4.5 Authorize Superintendent to Approve Fuel Oil, Propane, Wood Chip and Wood Pellet, and Paper Bids (Action): **Chris McVeigh moved to approve the authorization of the superintendent to approve bids for fuel, oil, propane, woodchips, wood pellets and paper for the district as they come in. Seconded by Diane Nichols-Fleming, this motion carried unanimously.**

4.6 Authorize Superintendent to Sign all Documents & Contracts on Behalf of the Washington Central Unified Union School District: **Jonas Eno-Van Fleet moved to authorize the superintendent to sign all documents and contracts on behalf of the WCUUSD. Seconded by George Gross.** Discussion: Chris McVeigh asked for clarification, as this seems like a very broad authorization. Superintendent Taylor noted that this is action that the board takes every year at this time. Discussion followed around whether a dollar amount limit should be stated in this document. Jonas Eno-Van Fleet reviewed the action and discussion from last year's board meeting around this item. **This motion carried unanimously.**

Kari Bradley noted that these action items are housekeeping items each year and he suggested that the board make a note for next year to take this action without a lot of deliberation.

4.7 Revenue Anticipation Note & Investment Bids: **Flor Diaz Smith moved to approve revenue anticipation note and investment bid from Community Bank, NA. Seconded by Jonas Eno-Van Fleet. This motion carried unanimously.**

Chris McVeigh moved to authorize the board chair to sign the loan document for the board via electronic means. Seconded by Diane Nichols-Fleming, this motion carried unanimously.

4.8 Construction Bids (Action):

For the Rumney Sidewalk Bid, Chris McVeigh moved to approve of the bid provided by J. Merrill Construction LLC in the amount of \$115,280.00. Seconded by Dorothy Naylor.

Discussion: Debra Taylor explained that the sidewalk is cracked and rising up in places and needs to be replaced for safety. **This motion carried unanimously.**

For the U-32 Gym Equipment Project, Stephen Looke moved to approve the bid provided by Lajeunesse Interiors Inc. in the amount of \$ 54,775.00. Seconded by Lindy Johnson, this motion carried unanimously.

For the U-32 Sidewalk Repair, Chris McVeigh moved to award the bid for U-32 sidewalk reconstruction Area #1 to Avery Excavating in the amount of \$166,000.00. Seconded by Stephen Looke, this motion carried unanimously.

Diane Nichols-Fleming moved to approve the transfer of \$20,000.00 from the district capital fund for the project, as the project cost exceeds estimates. Seconded by Flor Diaz Smith, this motion carried unanimously.

4.9 Insurance Bid: **Chris McVeigh moved to appoint Denis, Ricker and Brown as the WCUUSD Insurance Agent for one year, July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021, and to award both property, liability and related insurance bid to Liberty Mutual Insurance and Workers Compensation insurance bid to AIM Mutual Insurance Company and other insurance carriers as provided in the proposal for a one year period, July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021, in the amount of \$198,433.00. Seconded by Kari Bradley. This motion carried unanimously.**

5.0 Reports

5.1 Superintendent: Superintendent Taylor reported on end of the year activities, including graduation. She spoke about the distance learning planning, noting that nothing is known yet about the fall, there are contingency plans being made but we are continuing to follow the guidance of the CDC. She stated that school ends on June 11th but staff will remain until the 19th.

5.2 Policy:

5.2.1 **Chris McVeigh moved the following policies for second reading: B40 Non-Retribution/Retaliation, C2 Student Alcohol & Drugs, C3 Transportation, C5 Weapons/Firearms, C6 Home Study Students, C8 Pupil Privacy Rights, C10 & C10P Prevention of Harassment, Hazing and Bullying Policy and Procedures, C11 Student Freedom of Expression in School-Sponsored Media, C30 Student Medication, C32 Eighteen Year-Old Students. Seconded by Dorothy Naylor.** There was no discussion; these policies have been discussed in previous meetings. **This motion carried unanimously; all policies are approved.**

5.2.2 First Reading C21 Search and Seizure of Students by School Personnel. Chris McVeigh invited feedback from the board on this first reading. Jill Olsen asked for explanation why verbiage was changed to “primary layer of clothing.” She suggested adding “... such as pants, etc.” Stephen Looke stated that when he read “primary layer of clothing” he interpreted it as underwear. A suggestion was made to define “primary layer,” e.g., the layer of clothing that immediately covers undergarments. Chris McVeigh will bring this back to the Policy

Committee.

5.3 ESP Negotiations: Jonas Eno-Van Fleet shared that the group had a productive session Monday, June 1st; another session is scheduled for next Monday, the hope is that an agreement will be reached on next Monday. He thanked board members for joining the Executive Session earlier during this meeting.

5.4 Education Quality: Kari Bradley briefly reported that the committee had met earlier and discussed the charter, considered SBAC data, looked at post-secondary results, SAT/ACT averages, AP exam results, and approved a monitoring calendar for the coming year. He stated that the committee is discussing how to share data reports with the WCUUSD board. Superintendent Taylor reminded board members that they all receive the information packets for all of the committees. Stephen Looke asked whether the Education Quality Committee is satisfied with student outcomes given the current distance learning circumstances. Kari Bradley stated that this data is not yet available/ has not yet been considered. Chris McVeigh suggested that a way to share data with board members is to post it on the website and inform board members that it is posted.

5.4.1 Charter: **Kari Bradley moved to approve the charter for the Education Quality Committee. Seconded by Jonas Eno-Van Fleet.** Discussion: Kari Bradley explained this charter. **This motion carried unanimously.**

6.0 Consent Agenda

- 6.1 Approve Minutes of 5.20.20: **Jonas Eno-Van Fleet moved to approve the minutes of May 20, 2020. Seconded by Stephen Looke, this motion carried unanimously.**
- 6.2 Approve Board Orders: **Flor Diaz Smith moved to approve the following: Check Warrant General 05-21-20 to 06-03-20, \$213,006.44 Check warrant Capitol 05-21-20 thru 06-03-20, \$284.31. Seconded by Dorothy Naylor, this motion carried unanimously.**

7.0 Personnel

- 7.1 Approve Hires, Resignations, Retirements:
Lindy Johnson moved to approve the following hires:
- **Dawn Bates**
 - **Meta Bravos**
- Seconded by Diane Nichols-Fleming, this motion carried unanimously.**
Flor Diaz Smith moved to accept the following resignation: Peter Arsenault. Seconded by Diane Nichols-Fleming, this motion carried unanimously.
Jill Olsen moved to accept the recommendation for the changes in FTE, as presented. Seconded by Jonas Eno-Van Fleet. Discussion: Superintendent Taylor explained these changes. This motion carried unanimously.

8.0 Future Agenda Items

- 8.1 Finance Committee
- 8.1.1 Efficiency Study: Flor Diaz Smith shared that the Efficiency Study will be shared with all board members, and that the Finance Committee will consider this at the next meeting.
- 8.1.2 Construction Update

Debra Taylor asked whether the board would consider amending the agenda to take action around financial support for the summer food program. The school year program ends on June 18th. Chris McVeigh asked whether we can take a straw poll of the board and avoid taking action tonight, so it can be warned at the next meeting. Flor Diaz Smith indicated that the board is allowed to take an emergency action; this could be considered an emergency as it's related to COVID19.

Stephen Looke moved to make an emergency approval of the expenditure of up to \$37,637, to fund the summer meals program, including delivery. Seconded by Flor Diaz Smith, this motion carried unanimously.

9.0 Executive Session: Interim Superintendent "debrief." At 8:53 pm, Chris McVeigh moved to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel issues, and to invite Debra Taylor, Jen Miller-Arsenault and Kelly Bushey. Lindy Johnson seconded. This motion carried unanimously.

At 9:52 pm, Lindy Johnson moved to leave Executive Session. Flor Diaz Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

During Executive Session the Board discussed personnel issues.

*4.2 Report Teacher/Staff Appreciation Group: Diane Nichols-Fleming said the Teacher / Staff Appreciation Group discussed three options:

A) a yard sign for the staff and attaching balloons for those who are retiring, two possible quotes on the yard signs. Quote for those signs was about \$4.50 per sign, estimates of total cost of \$1687.50, and delivery would be in about a week.

B) Custom facemasks, which symbolizes this time. The team talked about different types of masks and what they'd look like, and Flor found the International Esperanza Project which does work in Guatemala to mitigate COVID-19 there. This group would provide enough masks at a cost of \$4.75 per mask, which would be available in 3-4 days, total cost would be \$1781.25

C) A combination of both the signs and the mask for our staff, at a total cost of \$3,468.75. Lindy Johnson liked the signs which are public and could be pulled out whenever we need them. Lindy Johnson said that where she works the school gave teachers and staff masks, and it was not well received.

- Jonas Eno-Van Fleet and Jill Olson and Debra Taylor agreed with Lindy Johnson.
- Kari Bradley preferred the signs.
- MaryLynne Strachan preferred both, but is OK with signs.
- Chris McVeigh supported both.
- George Gross preferred signs.
- Flor Diaz Smith said the sign gives a statement but is temporary, but masks would be used long term and have a positive benefit.
- MaryLynne Strachan said she doesn't mind contributing some of her money.
- Jonas Eno-Van Fleet would like a link to the mask maker.
- Diane Nichols-Fleming said it would be an important statement to make this happen in our district, even if it took private donations and money from the budget.
- Dorothy Naylor would support both.
- Debra Taylor mentioned that there was a surplus at the end of the year, and if the board would like to dedicate part of that surplus to this, the district can do so.
- Scott Thompson noted that spending this money during the current crisis might have an optics problem.
- Dorothy Naylor said this first year of a merged board would indicate support for our schools,

and really liked the idea of signs showing that we are doing this, we are getting ourselves together and doing the job of getting our schools together and that is important.

- Jonas Eno-Van Fleet mentioned that the board could allocate the money now and solicit donations to cover the cost.
- The board took a straw poll to determine the board's preference for options A or C. Option C won, 6-5.

Diane Nichols-Fleming moved to spend up to \$3,468.75 to acquire signs and masks for teacher/staff appreciation. Flor Diaz Smith seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Diane Nichols-Fleming shared next action steps will be to get a final count of teachers and staff, making the order, and identifying deliverers.

Chris McVeigh asked where donations can be sent. Debra Taylor: checks can be sent to the central office with "teacher appreciation" in the memo line.

9.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 10:14 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Stoudt, Board Recording Secretary
and Jonas Eno-Van Fleet, Board Clerk

*Open Meeting Law temporary changes as of 3/30/20: Boards are not required to designate a physical meeting location. Board members and staff are not required to be present at a designated meeting location.