

# Washington Central Unified Union School District

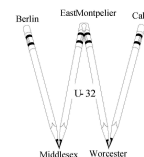
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*WCUUSD exists to nurture and inspire in all students the passion, creativity and power to contribute to their local and global communities.*

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Debra Taylor, Ph.D.  
Interim Superintendent



## Washington Central Unified Union School District Board Meeting Minutes - Approved May 20, 2020

*Approved 6-3-2020*

### **Present by Teleconference\*:**

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

**Administrators:** Superintendent Debra Taylor, Business Administrator Lori Bibeau, Technology Director Keith MacMartin, Berlin Principal Aaron Boynton, Calais Principal Cat Fair, Director of Curriculum Jen Miller-Arsenault, Director of Student Services Kelly Bushey, Doty Principal Gillian Fuqua, EMES Principal Alicia Lyford, U-32 Principal Steven Dellinger-Pate, U-32 Associate Principal Jody Emerson, Rumney Principal Casey Provost, U-32 Student Affairs Director Amy Molina

**Other:** ORCA videographer, Dave Delcore (Times Argus), Robert Porter, B. Fischer, David Lawrence

**1.0 Call to Order:** Scott Thompson called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

### **2.0 Welcome**

2.1 Reception of Guests

2.2 Agenda Revisions: no revisions

2.3 Public Comments: no public comments

2.4 Students' Report: Townes reported that the Advanced Placement tests were recently completed; they were in a different format this time due to COVID19. The students reported briefly on end of year developments, during this distance learning period.

### **3.0 Board Operations (Discussion/Action)**

3.1 Board Steering Team Membership: Scott Thompson reviewed the discussion that had occurred at the previous board meeting. Scott Thompson, Flor Diaz Smith and Jonas Eno-Van

Fleet agreed to serve on this team, being chair, co-chair and clerk. **Chris McVeigh moved that Jill Olsen serve on this team as Middlesex representative. Seconded by Jonas Eno-Van Fleet, this motion carried unanimously. Flor Diaz Smith moved that Diane Nichols-Fleming serve on this team as Berlin representative. Seconded by Marylynne Strachan, this motion carried unanimously.** The purpose of this team will be to form the agenda for the WCUUSD Board meetings.

3.2 Board Committee Schedules (Action): **Flor Diaz Smith moved to approve the board committee schedules as presented. Seconded by Jonas Eno-Van Fleet. This motion carried unanimously.**

3.3 Superintendent Transition Update –July 1, 2020: Scott Thompson invited board members to communicate directly with future Superintendent in response to the proposed transition plan which has been shared with the board and administration.

3.4 CV Fiber Letter of Support (Action): **Lindy Johnson moved to approve the CV Fiber Letter of Support as presented. Seconded by Flor Diaz Smith, this motion carried unanimously.**

3.5 Teacher Appreciation: Scott Thompson reminded the board that this had been discussed at the previous board meeting. Diane Nichols-Fleming shared some ideas that might be feasible, for the board to consider. Some discussion followed around the possibility of having signs of appreciation made for teachers. This topic will go to a brainstorming group who will flesh out some ideas.

#### **4.0 Reports (Discussion/Action)**

##### 4.1 Superintendent

4.1.1 COVID 19 Update: Superintendent Taylor had shared a written report. She noted that we have approval to amend our school year calendar. Decisions about summer services are expected to be made by June 1st.

4.1.2 Bid Recommendation (Action): **Flor Diaz Smith moved to approve Connor Contracting for construction projects as presented, in the amount of \$235,437. Seconded by Chris McVeigh.** Discussion: Kari Bradley asked for more information about the projects included in this bid. Brief discussion followed. Superintendent Taylor shared that these projects had been prioritized in February when the board had been considering facilities needs. She can provide detailed information if board members want more specifics. **This motion carried unanimously.**

4.1.3 Net Metering Contract (Action): Scott Cameron had provided some counsel to follow up on this issue which had been discussed at the previous board meeting. Flor Diaz Smith shared that the Finance Committee had agreed on an 18 month, with six months to finish the contract; a two year commitment. Board members had provided questions for Robert Porter, and he answered questions about this contract.

**Flor Diaz Smith moved to direct the superintendent and counsel to finalize a contract with Kingsbury Hydroelectric for a maximum of two years, and for the superintendent to sign on the board's behalf. Seconded by Dorothy Naylor. This motion carried unanimously.**

4.2 Leadership Team: The Leadership Team had provided a written report for the board. Principals provided a brief overview from each school. Steven Dellinger-Pate shared plans for graduation, June 12 - 14th. Kelly Bushey and Jen Miller-Arsenault shared updates as well.

4.3 Finance Committee (Action): Flor Diaz Smith reported from the Finance Committee that had met previously in the evening.

4.3.1 Budget Information: this document had been shared with the board.

4.3.2 Proposal for Early Retirement: **Jonas Eno-Van Fleet moved to approve the three motions as suggested: The WCUUSD Board would authorize a timeline for applications, to offer to eligible staff no later than June 20, 2020 with a deadline of September 15, 2020. The WCUUSD Board would authorize the parameters including qualifications: A combination of age plus years of service (15+) =70 or more for ALL contractual staff who meet this criteria. The board would authorize the maximum number of slots available: 28 professional & related staff, 27 educational support & related staff. The total eligible is 55 employees. Seconded by Flor Diaz Smith.**

Discussion: Stephen Looke shared that he does not feel that the board can afford to offer early retirement. Superintendent Taylor explained the logistics around this proposal and she feels that the case can be made that this is a more humane way to reduce staff. Some discussion followed. Diane Nichols-Fleming reminded the board that we have not begun conversations yet about reduction in force. The board discussed the issue of early retirement with Superintendent Taylor and Lori Bibeau. Some board members expressed support while others were not in support of this action.

**A vote was called: 8 voted yes; 4 voted no; this motion carried.**

4.3.3 Annual Fiscal Management Questionnaire: **Flor Diaz Smith moved to approve the Annual Fiscal Management Questionnaire as presented. Seconded by Chris McVeigh, this motion carried unanimously.**

4.3.4 Summer Meal Provision: **Flor Diaz Smith moved to authorize the administration to proceed in the planning of the summer meals, in coordination with the community connections program calendar, with location at EMES. Seconded by Jaiel Pulskamp.** Lindy Johnson asked about the logistics - will these meals be delivered as they currently are, or offered for pick up? Superintendent Taylor indicated that surveys will be shared with families and plans will be made based on the feedback. Kari Bradley thanked the staff for the amazing effort they have made to provide meals for families on such a large scale. He thinks that we should communicate this gratitude and share with the community. **This motion carried unanimously.**

4.3.5 Energy Project Consultant: tabled. This will be discussed at the next Finance Committee meeting.

4.4 ESP Negotiations: Jonas Eno-Van Fleet reported that the committee had met last Monday. There have been some technology/ internet connectivity issues. The group may opt for a limited in-person meeting in the future. There are no tentative agreements in place yet, though progress is being made.

Board members discussed whether the chat should be open to all during these online meetings. The Board Steering Team may discuss this.

#### 4.5 Policy (Action) – pg.

4.5.1 Second Reading of B3 Alcohol & Drug Free Workplace, C1 Student Education Records, C4 Limited English Proficiency Students Policies: Chris McVeigh presented these policies. **Stephen Looke moved to approve the second reading of policies B3, C1, and C4. Seconded by Dorothy Naylor, this motion carried unanimously.**

4.5.2 First Reading of C2 Student Alcohol & Drugs, C3 Transportation, C5 Weapons/Firearms, C6 Home Study Students, C7 Student Attendance, 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 Policies: Chris McVeigh presented these policies for first readings. He briefly reviewed each policy. Suggestion was made to move the additional language to the subsection: Annual Report. This suggestion was accepted. These policies will be on the next agenda for second readings.

#### 5.0 Consent Agenda (Action)

5.1 Approve Minutes of 5.6.20: **Lindy Johnson moved to approve the minutes of May 6, 2020. Seconded by Jonas Eno-Van Fleet. This motion carried unanimously.**

5.2 Approve Board Orders: **Chris McVeigh moved to approve the following: Check Warrant General 05-07-20 to 05-20-20. \$ 258,254.1; Check Warrant Capitol 05-07-20 to 05-20-20. \$ 6,156.91. Seconded by Flor Diaz Smith. This motion carried unanimously.**

#### 6.0 Personnel (Action)

6.1 Approve Hires, Resignations, Retirements:

**Lindy Johnson moved the following hires:**

- **Tess Prestage (U-32 Science Teacher - Middle School 1.0 fte)**
- **Patty Abraham (Berlin Physical Education Teacher 0.8 fte)**
- **Danielle Jesmonth (Berlin 3/4 grade Teacher 1.0 fte)**

**Seconded by Jaiel Pulskamp. This motion carried unanimously.**

**Jonas Eno-Van Fleet moved to approve the following:**

- **Retirement (effective June 30) John Fish (Calais Physical Education Teacher 0.6 fte). Seconded by Jill Olsen. This motion carried unanimously.**

**Flor Diaz Smith moved to approve the following:**

**Resignations (effective June 30)**

- **Alexandra Morse (Calais/E Montpelier Art Teacher 0.4/0.5 fte)**
- **Deborah Gale (WCUUSD EEE Teacher 1.0 fte).**

**Seconded by Jaiel Pulskamp. This motion carried unanimously.**

7.0 **Future Agenda Items:** Diane Nichols-Fleming: include Teacher Appreciation in case

we need to take action.

**8.0 Executive Session (Personnel)** Jill Olsen moved to go into Executive Session at 8:44 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel evaluations. Seconded by Flor Diaz Smith.

Jaiel Pulskamp moved to come out of executive session at 9:05 pm. Lindy Johnson seconded, the motion carried unanimously.

During executive session the board discussed personnel evaluations.

**9.0 Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 9:07 pm.

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

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**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.  
**Our building will not be open for meetings. All are welcome to attend virtually.**