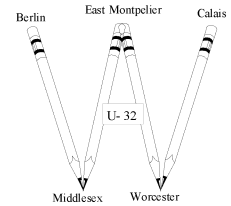


Washington Central Unified Union School District

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 Annual Meeting 3.2.20 6:30PM

U-32 Middle/High School Cafeteria

PRESENT: Jaiel Pulskamp, Jonas Eno-Van Fleet, Dorothy Naylor, Scott Thompson, Flor Diaz Smith, Chris McVeigh, Lindy Johnson, Marylynne Strachan

Superintendent Debra Taylor, Director of Technology Keith MacMartin, Business Administrator Lori Bibeau, U-32 Principal Steven Dellinger-Pate

Others Present: Representative Pat MacDonald (Berlin), Representative Kimberly Jessup (Middlesex), Richard Kehne (Calais), Scott Bassage (Calais), Carl Witke (Worcester), Mary Ormsby (East Calais), Mike Ormsby (East Calais), Rubin Bennett (East Montpelier), Jonathan Goddard (Berlin), Allen Ploof (East Montpelier), Barbara Ploof (East Montpelier), Nicole Ferrier (Berlin), Stephen Looke (East Montpelier), Frank and Louise Mier (Berlin), Karoline May (Middlesex), Rosemary Morse (Berlin), , David Connor (East Montpelier), Ann Stanton (East Montpelier), Gus Seelig (Calais), Corinne Stridsberg (Berlin)

1.0 **Call to Order:** Gus Seelig called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

2.0 **Elect Moderator:** Scott Thompson invited nominations for moderator: Scott Bassage nominated Gus Seelig. Seconded by Mary Ormsby. No other nominations were heard. This motion carried unanimously.

Scott Thompson presented tokens of thanks to former board members who were present at the meeting.

3.0 **Discuss Proposed Washington Central UUSD Budget and Articles of District Warning:** Scott Thompson presented a *WCUUSD FY20-21 Budget Presentation*, and invited questions and input from those present.

Corinne Stridsberg stated that she believes staffing information should be included in the annual report and/ or made easily available, as this is a substantial portion of the total budget. She noted that in the past this information has been made available in the town reports and online.

Flor Diaz Smith thanked the administration for their work on this budget; she noted that this is the sixth draft/ iteration.

Kim Jessup asked for clarification about the debt service and capital fund transfer items in the budget. She asked, given that the elementary schools have different needs, how is the board and administration going to prioritize? Lori Bibeau explained that there is money still delineated by each town, that came with each when the merge occurred; she also noted that there is a capital plan in place for this year and this coming summer. Scott Thompson noted that the board has not yet determined how to settle the issue of debt service for each town, in light of the merge; this, and long term capital planning, are ongoing discussion topics for the board.

Corinne Stridsberg stated that she feels information and details are lacking in the annual report, specific to each town. She stated that these details are important for community members to consider.

Ann Stanton shared that in order to keep the community interested in the school, we need to continue to understand the details as opposed to a birdseye view of the budget. She expressed her disappointment at the level of detail in the report.

Rick Kehne reiterated the previous comments. He noted that, as Act 46 was proposed as a cost savings initiative, it is important that townspeople see the details, as well as disaggregated details by town.

Flor Diaz Smith stated that the budget was developed with input from each building principal, with a focus on multi-tiered supports and equity across the district.

Jonathan Goddard encouraged the board to consider budgeting for providing free breakfast and lunch for all students in the future budget. This is an issue he has advocated for over the course of several years.

Stephen Looke shared that the state has a new online feature where people can provide their individual information and be provided with specific details about their property tax.

Scott Thompson asked those present for any input or feedback around the budget communication. Corinne Stridsberg reiterated her previous comments that she feels communication has been lacking.

Lindy Johnson indicated that this year was a new challenge to the board, with the unified school board configuration, and that the board continues to move forward under this new governance structure.

Ann Stanton stated that there needs to be a better way to notify the public in advance of town meeting day.

Rick Kehne asked the board to provide more detail around the capital funds.

Debra Taylor explained the process this year for the capital plan.

Patricia MacDonald asked what the board is planning for saving costs in the future, as this was how Act 46 was presented. She suggested that the board create a committee to look specifically at cost savings.

Rubin Bennett shared his frustration over common level of appraisal; he encouraged the board to consider this as a factor in the merger - CLA is still determined by town and yet the budget is developed as a whole.

Scott Thompson thanked those who were present tonight.

Jonathan Goddard from Berlin is seeking a write-in election for the 2-year board seat. He introduced himself.

Steven Delinger-Pate noted that Diane Nichols-Fleming is also seeking a write in board position for the 3 year vacancy.

Dave Connor recommends that the towns do some comparisons after Town Meeting Day, because he believes each town in the state will have some rich discussions about Act 46 related issues and we can learn from one another.

Some discussion followed about whether the board can take action tonight to put into place a mailing for next year's annual report. Gus Seeling stated that the board cannot take action since it was not warned.

Rosemary Morse suggested that if the information is prepared for each town, it can be mailed from the town clerks' offices, with the town reports.

Some discussion followed around the logistics of mailing an annual report.

Pat MacDonald stated that Dave Kelley had done a phenomenal job and she encouraged the board to recognize the work he had done over the past two years around Act 46.

Jonas Eno-Van Fleet asked the community for feedback around proficiency based graduation requirements, the work of the policy committee, social justice initiatives, move toward trauma based practice, MTSS, etc.

Ann Stanton stated that she believes a more personal, detailed report in FPF would be appreciated.

Rick Kehne thanked the board for the work they have done, but he expressed continued concerns around proficiency based grading. Some discussion followed around proficiency based grading.

4.0 Adjourn: Anne Stanton moved to adjourn at 7:49 p.m. Seconded by Rubin Bennett, this motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Stoudt, Board Recording Secretary