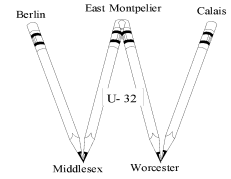


# Washington Central Unified Union School District

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

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

Debra Taylor, Ph.D.  
Interim Superintendent



## Washington Central Unified Union School District Board Unapproved Meeting Minutes

2.5.20 6:30 – 8 PM

U-32 Middle/High School, Room 128/131

**Board Members Present:** Scott Thompson, Jaiel Pulskamp, Marylynne Strachan, Flor Diaz Smith, George Gross, Vera Frazier, Jonas Eno-Van Fleet, Chris McVeigh, Lindy Johnson, Dorothy Naylor; Student Representative Mia Smith

**Administrators Present:** Superintendent Debra Taylor, U-32 Principal Steven Dellinger-Pate, U-32 Assistant Principal Jody Emerson

**Others Present:** Bruce Pandya (U-32 student), David Delcore (Times Argus), N. Stoddard (Hazen)

1.0 Call to Order: Scott Thompson called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

1.1 Reception of Guests: Scott Thompson welcomed Bruce Pandya. He would like to speak to the board later tonight when they consider adopting the policy C27.

1.2 Agenda Revisions: Scott Thompson noted that the board will go into Executive Session later tonight to discuss personnel issues: administrator contracts.

1.3 Public Comments: none

2.0 Finance (Action)

2.1 Capital Projects – Summer 2020: Superintendent Taylor had shared a list of summer capital projects. Vera Frazier noted that the Berlin playground project is currently removed from this approved list, but is still up for discussion.

**Flor Diaz Smith moved to approve a formula for budget allocations for FY20-21, as presented. Seconded by Chris McVeigh, this motion carried unanimously.**

**Lindy Johnson moved to issue requests for proposals in February/ March to ensure plans are in place for summer work. Seconded by Flor Diaz Smith, this motion carried unanimously.**

The Finance Committee will evaluate and recommend the bids but the board will award the bids.

3.0 Policy (Discussion/Action)

3.1 Second Reading of A21 Public Participation at Board Meetings, A22 Notice of Non-Discrimination, A23 Community Engagement and Vision, A24 Board/Superintendent

Relationship, A31 Board Member Education, A32 Board Goal-Setting & Evaluation, B4 Mandatory Drug and Alcohol Testing for Transportation Employees, B5 Prevention of Employee Harassment, C27 Student Self-Expression and Student Distribution of Literature Policies.

Bruce Pandyo stated that he feels it is important that the board approve policy C27, as it is important that the schools take a proactive stance around these issues.

**Chris McVeigh moved to adopt: A21 Public Participation at Board Meetings, A22 Notice of Non-Discrimination, A23 Community Engagement and Vision, A24 Board/Superintendent Relationship, A31 Board Member Education, A32 Board Goal-Setting & Evaluation, B4 Mandatory Drug and Alcohol Testing for Transportation Employees, B5 Prevention of Employee Harassment. Seconded by Dorothy Naylor, this motion carried unanimously.**

**Jonas Eno-Van Fleet moved to approve: C27 Student Self-Expression and Student Distribution of Literature Policies. Seconded by Flor Diaz Smith.** Discussion: Jonas Eno-Van Fleet thanked the board and the public who had advocated for this policy; he noted that he is glad that we are making this statement that symbols of white supremacy and white nationalism have no place in our schools. **This motion carried unanimously.**

4.0 Consent Agenda (Action)

4.1 **Approve Minutes of 1.15.20 & 1.23.20: George Gross moved to approve the minutes of January 15th and 23rd as written. Seconded by Jaiel Pulskamp, this motion carried unanimously.**

4.2 Approve Board Orders

**Marylynne Strachan moved to approve board orders in the following amounts: \$54,172.85; \$446,497.90. Seconded by Lindy Johnson.** Vera Frazier asked a few questions for clarification - about Capstone, what the total bill amount for Green Mountain Behavior Consultants; and she asked that when hotel bills are submitted, an explanation be provided, such as "training." She will email these questions to Lori Bibeau for clarification. **This motion carried unanimously.**

5.0 Board Reflection:

Vera Frazier stated that, since merging, she feels less in touch with the elementary schools and with middle school students. She feels more of a disconnect between the students and the board's work; she wishes there was more of a presence of elementary and middle school students during board meetings, and for instance, when developing policy.

Vera Frazier also noted her concerns around lack of follow through around the topic of student outcomes which was brought to the attention of the board in the fall.

Possibility of pot luck dinners at the second board meeting each month at the elementary schools to help with community outreach.

Seat and table configuration at board meetings.

How will the board be involved in supervision and evaluation of administrators?

Where are we with our board goals?

We would like to hear the "good, the bad, and the ugly" - would like to hear it directly and not trickled down through second and third parties.

Marylynne Strachan shared her idea of having an Education Quality Committee. She noted that other school boards in the state are doing this. She thinks this might be informed by the CIP: Continuous Improvement Plan.

She would like more opportunities to be able to discuss student data; she echoed many of Vera's concerns.

The board discussed the idea of an Education Quality Committee. Flor Diaz Smith shared that this committee used to be in existence, but with the new board configuration, it was felt that the board had a full plate at the moment. Discussion followed around the possibility of creating committees after Town Meeting Day, when the board had more members. Lindy Johnson stated

that she would like for the board to have time during meetings to have more substantive discussions rather than acknowledging written reports from administrators.

Dorothy Naylor spoke about the idea of a school advisory committee. She had reached out to Susan Clark and would like to continue the conversation, but she would like for the board to get its ducks in a row before enlisting her expertise.

Vera had shared a list with board members, outlining the issues she had brought up. She invited other board members to reflect.

Chris McVeigh stated that he thinks having time for board reflection at each meeting would be beneficial to the board. He noted that, while he used to go to Rumney School for board meetings, he now finds that he no longer goes into the school building and he misses that connection. He would like to build times into the agendas for the board to check in on student outcomes.

Marylynne Strachan stated that she would like to build board agendas together.

Lindy Johnson stated that she likes having the student voice at meetings; however, she knows that board meetings are late and it is a lot to ask of parents and children, and building administrators, to have children present for the meetings - she suggested video clips or other ways to share student voice. She also reminded board members that some of the meetings this year went late into the night, so she warned against adding more to the agendas without considering how to make meetings more efficient, timewise.

Jonas Eno-Van Fleet stated that he agrees with what has been stated tonight, but he also worries about the length of school board meetings currently; creating committees will create more meetings; adding more board members will add more voices which will lengthen the meetings. Scott Thompson explained that with a larger board configuration, the board will operate under a different set of Robert's Rules. Many board members expressed that they did not know this when they had agreed to a larger board.

Flor Diaz Smith stated that the board had intended to start discussing committees after finishing the book study activity and working together with administrators to determine how to move forward, working together. She stated that a board retreat will also help flesh out these issues; she would like to plan a board retreat soon.

Jaiel Pulskamp echoed the sentiment that being part of the school board ironically keeps her out of the school building. She would like to have time to take a closer look at the local school facilities.

George Gross expressed that the late hour of meetings (timeliness issues) are difficult. He thinks the board will run more smoothly as time goes on. He stated that he would like to see the schools plan more activities in sync, for example, the "Pi Day" celebration. Jaiel Pulskamp asked if there is a WCUUSD-wide events calendar. Some discussion followed around that - the challenge is to keep a universal calendar up-to-date, with input from each school.

Mia Smith expressed her perspective as student representative. She would like to have more student voice on the board; she also noted that it is challenging for students to be able to attend meetings due to the late hour as well as transportation challenges.

Vera Frazier shared that Diane Nichols-Fleming would like to be a write in candidate for Berlin on the board. Superintendent Taylor invited her to reach out.

## 6.0 Reports (Discussion)

6.1 Superintendent: Superintendent Taylor shared her written report. She thanked Vera Frazier for the work she has done on the boards. While this is not her last meeting, Ms. Frazier will not run for school board at Town Meeting. Superintendent Taylor shared the annual report. She explained that the administrators will attend the second board meetings of the month, now that the budget development process is complete. She thanked Steven Dellinger-Pate and Jody Emerson for attending tonight.

Superintendent Taylor shared some of the bus transportation challenges so far this winter. Some discussion followed. Chris McVeigh stressed the importance that accurate information be shared with parents when there are bus incidents. Marylynne Strachan asked Principal Dellinger-Pate for some updates about proficiency-based grading. He explained that implementing proficiency-based

grading has been an iterative process. He noted that the goal by the end of this school year is to have a better handle on how grades are scored and how they are reported. He spoke about a collaborative process between principals in the area who are grappling with the same issues. Superintendent Taylor will share information about the Literacy Audit at the next board meeting. Superintendent Taylor shared information from the water lead levels testing.

6.2 Student: Mia Smith reported on the latest student happenings. She shared that some seniors have received early admissions decisions. Jonas Eno-Van Fleet asked how students are feeling about the college admissions process in light of the proficiency grading. Mia replied that there are mixed feelings, and she believes a lot of the reservations around proficiency grading are because it is new and unknown. She also noted that today is the three year anniversary of Laure Angel's death.

6.3 Negotiations: Jonas Eno-Van Fleet stated that negotiations continue.

7.0 Personnel (Action)

7.1 Approve Hires, Resignations, Retirements, Leave of Absences Requests:

**Chris McVeigh moved to approve the leave requests of Peter Arsenault and Caitlin Cipriano. Seconded by Jaiel Pulskamp, this motion carried unanimously.**

8.0 Future Agenda Items:

- Lindy Johnson has received information from a company regarding solar energy. Superintendent Taylor asked her to pass the information along to the Finance Committee.
- Feasibility of birth to preK care
- Youth risk behavior survey
- Establish calendar for student reports and data for board meetings

9.0 Executive Session for Personnel: **At 8:46, Flor Diaz Smith moved to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing administrator contracts. Seconded by Chris McVeigh, this motion carried unanimously.**

9.1 Administrator Contracts

9.2 Superintendent Goals

At 11:00 pm, Lindy Johnson moved to come out of Executive Session, Jaiel Pulskamp seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

No action was taken.

10.0 Adjournment: The board adjourned by consensus at 11:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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