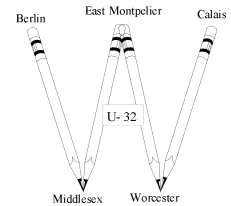


Washington Central Unified Union School District

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 Community Budget Forum Unapproved Minutes 12.11.19 6:30-7:30PM

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

Present: Superintendent Debra Taylor, Business Administrator Lori Bibeau, Scott Thompson, Flor Diaz Smith, Jaiel Pulskamp, Lindy Johnson, Chris McVeigh, Jonas Eno-Van Fleet, Keith MacMartin, Kelly Bushey, Steven Dellinger-Pate, Katie Reed, Calais; Lauri Scharf, Middlesex; Dave Lawrence, Middlesex; Cynthia Gardner-Morse, Calais; Michael Close, Worcester; Michael Duane, East Montpelier

1.0 Call to Order: Scott Thompson called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. He thanked those present and invited input throughout the course of the meeting.

2.0 Discuss Proposed Washington Central UUSD Budget

Question from Cynthia Gardner-Morse: Why does the packet indicate that we became a merged/single district on July 1, 2019? Isn't this still be decided in the courts?

Scott Thompson explained that this is the legal mandate at this time, including the name: WCUUSD. Oral arguments to be held Jan 15, 2020, in Middlebury around the ongoing court case.

Scott Thompson introduced board members who were present.

Scott Thompson and Flor Diaz Smith provided a powerpoint presentation: *WCUUSD FY20-21 Board Budget Presentation, Community Forum, December 11, 2019.*

Scott Thompson stated that this forum tonight is an important process because the budget is still in a "malleable" stage.

Scott Thompson explained that equalized pupils affects tax rate; preserving enrollment to the best of our ability is an advantage. We do not yet know the equalized pupil data for FY20 yet; we will know later this month.

Scott Thompson indicated that the list of budget considerations that the WCLT (Leadership Team) had recommended is in part in response to the changing student demographic which reflects a dramatic increase in students who have experienced childhood adversity in such a way that it affects their ability to be successful in schools.

Some discussion followed around the "List of Budget Considerations" slide.

Scott Thompson shared that Draft 2 will represent an increase of 3.5%, which is a decrease from this draft.

Scott Thompson asked whether there is any input from the audience about items that are NOT included in this list.

Michael Close spoke about the strings program at U-32, and that Doty is the elementary school in WCUUSD that offers strings opportunities to all students at no expense to the students.

Katie Reed also stated that an expansion of offering the strings program would be beneficial to students; she described her personal experience of providing this opportunity to her children; she spoke about the need for equity so that all students have this opportunity.

Lauri Scharf spoke about alternative pathways to careers, etc.

Desire for elementary foreign language instruction was indicated.

Some discussion of the fiddle program in Worcester.

Is there an after school homework support group? Some discussion followed around what the various schools offer.

Regarding bond payoff - how do we carry the savings forward and not be tempted to find a way to "fill" the slot. Scott Thompson replied: through rigorous, informed, capital planning.

A lengthy and interactive discussion followed around the capital plan.

Superintendent Taylor reminded those present that the board meets next Wednesday (12-18-19) at **Berlin School** to consider the next iteration of the budget.

3.0 Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Stoudt