

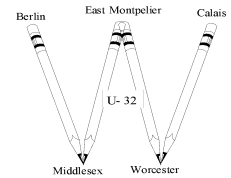
# Washington Central Unified Union School District

*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

### Approved Meeting Minutes

11.20.19 6:30 – 9 PM

Rumney Memorial School  
433 Shady Rill Road, Middlesex

*Approved 12/4/19*

**Board Members Present:** Scott Thompson, Jonas Eno-Van Fleet, Jaiel Pulkamp, Lindy Johnson, Flor Diaz Smith, Chris McVeigh, Dorothy Naylor, Student Representative Mia Smith

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

**Others Present:** ORCA videographer, Times Argus David Delcore, Adrienne Magida of Middlesex, Kyle Landis-Marinello of Middlesex, David Healy CV Fiber representative, Greg Western Cross VT Trails representative, Patrick Wood of Middlesex

1.0 Call to Order: Scott Thompson called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

1.1 Reception of Guests: Scott Thompson welcomed those present.

1.2 Agenda Revisions: Scott Thompson noted that he would like to move the Cross VT Trail discussion to earlier on the agenda: 1.5. He also suggested inserting an action item: 7.2: *Amicus* - he had sent a document to board members in advance of the meeting. He noted that an Executive Session will be needed at the end of the meeting, for discussing personnel issues. He stated that, after the meeting adjourns, he, Flor Diaz Smith and Jonas Eno-Van Fleet will plan an agenda for the next board meeting; this will be an open discussion and anyone is welcome to attend. Lindy Johnson would like to discuss one of the bills in the board warrants. This discussion will take place during the Finance agenda item.

1.3 Public Comments: none

1.4 CV Fiber: David Healy, Calais delegate on the CV Fiber board, spoke to the board about the work of creating more widespread, equitable access to the internet. Keith MacMartin spoke to the board about the challenge of providing adequate internet access to all of the school campuses. The board is in support of continuing discussions with CV Fiber.

1.5 Cross VT Trail Project: A representative for this project asked whether the board would take some sort of action to reaffirm the support for the trails that the previous U-32 board had stated. **Chris McVeigh moved to reaffirm the prior action taken by the U-32 Board to provide easement to Cross VT Trail project. Seconded by Dorothy Naylor, this motion carried unanimously.**

2.0 Spotlight – Rumney Principal, Casey Provost: Principal Provost provided a guided tour of the Rumney School building.

3.0 Book Reflection – *Equity from the Board Room to the Classroom* Chapter 4-6 (Discussion): Alicia Lyford facilitated a book discussion protocol around chapters 4 through 6. After the activity, groups briefly shared/ processed. Each group had taken notes on chart paper; the notes will be transcribed onto a shared document.

Scott Thompson: what we aspire to is a system where all stakeholders are able to work/ study/ learn in a culture that allows for a sense of security and enough personal safety to allow for risk taking and trying new things/ pushing boundaries.

Gillian Fuqua: recognizing the importance of relationships - we are made up of new board members, new administrative team members - we have so much “newness” - what action steps can we take to move from this state of “newness” to the ideal?

Flor Diaz Smith: spoke about the difference between a “school system” and a “system of schools.” We have all of the parts, we just need to get them all into place.

4.0 Consent Agenda (Action)

4.1 Approve Minutes of 11.6.19: **Flor Diaz Smith moved to approve the minutes of 11-6-29. Seconded by Chris McVeigh, this motion carried unanimously.**

4.2 Approve Board Orders: Flor Diaz Smith shared that each town clerk office had provided information about election costs. Lindy Johnson stated that she doesn't think the board ever had an opportunity to discuss this issue. She had reviewed past minutes and did not see any discussion with any specific details or decisions. Some discussion followed. The school district is considered a municipality as of July 1st; this led to some discussion over who is responsible for the expenses of elections. Board members agreed that the policy committee should address this issue.

**Chris McVeigh moved to authorize board orders in the amounts of \$476,403.64, and \$31,619.00 with the caveat: in these warrants are costs for town elections that were incurred up until the creation of the WCUUSD board; this is a one time expenditure and is not meant to establish any precedent going forward. Seconded by Dorothy Naylor, this motion carried unanimously.**

5.0 Reports (Discussion)

5.1 Superintendent: Superintendent Taylor had provided a written report. She invited questions or feedback.

5.2 Student: Mia Smith shared some of the recent school events.

5.3 VSBA Conference: Flor Diaz Smith shared from the recent conference that she and Superintendent Taylor had attended. Debra Taylor shared that she had attended a workshop on community engagement.

5.4 Superintendent Search: Dorothy Naylor, chair of the committee, shared that the committee has begun to plan how to engage the community in the hiring process. She noted that an ad has been placed in Schoolspring, and will be placed in the Times Argus. The committee right now is considered a steering committee, and is not necessarily the same configuration that will comprise the interview committee. The members of the steering committee are: Dorothy Naylor, Flor Diaz Smith, Steven Dellinger Pate, Lori Bibeau, Scott Thompson, Chris McVeigh, Chrissy George, Kate McCann.

Lindy Johnson asked - what is the steering committee's role? Scott Thompson - to take care of the mechanics of the search. Dorothy Naylor - wanting to cover all the bases and involve as many as possible, without making it extremely complicated.

Alicia Lyford asked why there is no representation from any of the five elementary schools on this committee. Flor Diaz Smith stated that they are welcome to have representation on the committee. Principal Lyford stated that this is the first time the elementary principals are hearing about the committee, so they might not be prepared tonight to respond. Dorothy Naylor stated - the next meeting is Monday, November 25th at 8 a.m. - she invited a representative from the elementary principals to attend and join the committee. Flor Diaz Smith shared that the committee has reached out to Deborah Wolfe for assistance with community engagement.

6.0 Finance (Discussion/Action)

6.1 Committee Report: Flor Diaz Smith shared the minutes from the most recent Finance Committee meeting.

6.2 Budget – Draft 1 Presentation: Debra Taylor presented the first draft of the budget, which represents level service. Lori Bibeau explained this draft in more detail. This first draft represents a 3.6% increase from the current year budget. The second draft will be presented to the board on December 18th.

Debra Taylor stated that a budget forum is scheduled for December 4th, before the next board meeting. Board members discussed the need to add meetings for budget discussion.

**Lindy Johnson moved to add January 8, 2021, 6:30 to the board calendar (U-32) for budget discussion. Seconded by Flor Diaz Smith, this motion carried unanimously.**

Kyle Landis-Marinello stated that if there are proposed cuts to programs, this is the information that should be shared with parents and community as soon as possible.

**Chris McVeigh moved to authorize the Finance committee to review and accept bids for vehicles. Seconded by Jonas Eno-Van Fleet, this motion carried unanimously.**

### 6.3 Budget 101 – Board Training

#### 7.0 Policy (Discussion/Action)

##### 7.1 Second Reading of A1 Board Member Conflict of Interest, C50 Comprehensive Sexual

Health Program, D34 Library Media Center Selection & Reconsideration Policies: Chris McVeigh

shared that the C50 policy is not ready for a second reading yet, as there have been some recommended edits. This policy is tabled for now.

**Flor Diaz Smith moved to approve second reading for the following policies: A1 Board Member Conflict of Interest, and D34 Library Media Center Selection & Reconsideration. Seconded by Dorothy Naylor, this motion carried unanimously.**

##### 7.2 Amicus : Scott Thompson read an opinion from Scott Cameron. **Chris McVeigh moved**

**to reaffirm the WCSU board's 2017 decision to join as a friend of the court on the side of Grimm (vs Gloucester). Seconded by Dorothy Naylor.** Discussion: Lindy Johnson expressed concerns around whether any costs are affiliated with this action. Jonas Eno-Van Fleet indicated that November 20th is Transgender Remembrance Day, so this action by the board is timely. This motion carried unanimously.

#### 8.0 Personnel (Action)

8.1 Approve Hires: **Flor Diaz Smith moved to approve the hire of Mary Wheeler, as presented. Seconded by Chris McVeigh. This motion carried unanimously.**

#### 9.0 Board Operations

9.1 Community Partnerships Reminder: Debra Taylor is going to facilitate the board's work on this initiative.

9.2 Cross VT Trail Project (this was discussed earlier in the meeting.)

#### 10.0 Future Agenda Items

10.1 Possible Renaming of District

10.2 Solar Power Discussion

#### 11.0 Board Reflection and Summary of Meeting – Next Steps for Board Members

Scott Thompson shared that he, Flor Diaz Smith and Jonas Eno-Van Fleet had met informally with their counterparts on the Montpelier-Roxbury board on Nov. 11. There was no agenda for the meeting, just a shared desire to open lines of communication that may eventually lead both districts to work better together in ways yet to be determined.

At 9:37 p.m., Jonas Eno-Van Fleet moved to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel issues. Seconded by Dorothy Naylor, this motion carried unanimously.

At 10:23 p.m., Jonas Eno-Van-Fleet moved to exit Executive Session. Seconded by Chris McVeigh. Motion carried unanimously.

12.0 Adjournment: The board adjourned by consensus at 10:24 p.m.

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