

# Washington Central Unified Union School District

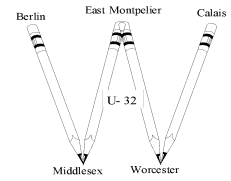
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*WCUUSD exists to nurture and inspire in all students the passion, creativity and power to contribute to their local and global communities.*

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Debra Taylor, Ph.D.  
Interim Superintendent



## Washington Central Unified Union School District Board

### Approved Meeting Minutes

11.6.19 6:30 – 9 PM

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

*approved 11-20-19*

**Board Members Present:** Scott Thompson, Vera Frazier, Jonas Eno-Van Fleet, Jaiel Pulskamp, Lindy Johnson, Flor Diaz Smith, Chris McVeigh, George Gross, Dorothy Naylor, Student Representatives Mia Smith and Townes DeGroot

**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, U-32 Assistant Principal Bill Deiss, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Jen Miller Arsenault, Director of Technology Keith MacMartin

**Others Present:** Senator Ann Cummings, Senator Anthony Pollina, Representative Kimberly Jessup, Representative Ken Goslant, Representative Janet Ancel, Representative Avram Patt, Representative Anne Donahue; Mack & Cindy Gardner-Morse, Calais; Corinne Stridsberg, Berlin; Meg Allison, Amy Koenigbauer, Bruce Pandya, Iona Bristol, Seeking Social Justice; Meg Falby, Are You Into It Consent Club; Alden Bird, U-32 teacher; Karen Lieberman, U-32 teacher; Eva Jessup, Amanda Brown, The U-32 Chronicle

1.0 Call to Order: Scott Thompson called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm. He welcomed those present, which included Washington Central area legislators.

1.1 Reception of Guests

1.2 Agenda Revisions: Debra Taylor noted that an Executive Session will be needed at the end of the meeting, for the purpose of discussing negotiations. The board agreed to this revision.

1.3 Public Comments: no public comments at this time.

2.0 Discussion with Washington Central Area Legislators: Scott Thompson thanked the legislators for attending tonight's meeting, and for the work that they carry out.

Senator Anthony Polina asked board members for a check-in about how the new board configuration is working.

Senator Ann Cummings reported that the Education Committee has on its agenda: special education; for the House: Pre-K; in the Department of Health and Human Services: trauma. She discussed the issue/ challenge of funding - for example, funding for staff salaries in fields related to trauma and mental health. Representative Janet Ancel asked the board for their input around the “trauma” issue, which she sees as more of a public health issue.

Regarding mental health supports in schools, she noted that there had been an increase in the budget for children’s mental health services in schools.

Kelly Bushey spoke about Act 173 - that the new funding formula provides a block grant that will be based on the spending from the past three years. She also spoke about the recent discussion around reconsidering and updating the special education rules and regulations.

Debra Taylor spoke about Act 166 - She stated that the Agency of Human Services and the Agency of Education currently both oversee early education, and that she has advocated for one or the other to take responsibility. She stated that the Act is silent around special education. She is planning to provide a written report for the legislators around issues related to Act 166.

Debra Taylor shared with the legislators a letter from a board member advocating for legislation around dyslexia.

Chris McVeigh asked whether there is any possibility that the legislature will take up the issue of debt around Act 46. Senator Cummings invited the board to draft a solution; she spoke about a December first deadline. Representative Ancel stated that a proposal from the board with general agreement would be a helpful starting place.

Representative Kimberly Jessup spoke about proficiency-based grading. She invited boards to hear from students, parents and teachers on this issue. The first class that will graduate with proficiency-based grading will be the Class of 2020. She noted some issues that have come across her desk: driver’s ed during the summer months, elementary school language instruction.

A parent spoke about elementary school reading proficiency, and about teacher training around phonemic awareness.

Representative Ancel thanked the board for including the legislators at this time in the year (before the snow falls.) She invited school boards to stay in touch with legislators.

Senator Polina encouraged board members, if they were to propose a solution to the debt issue around Act 46, to reach out to other school districts to collaborate on the proposal.

Legislators asked board members to reach out and to inform them, for example, when the board is discussing, taking action, wrestling with big issues. They explained that they are assigned to specific committees and do not often have opportunities to stay abreast of, for example, education issues; the board can help to keep them informed.

### 3.0 Spotlight U-32

3.1 Proficiency Based Graduation Requirements: Steven Dellinger-Pate and Jen Miller-Arsenault presented to the board: *Proficiency-Based Graduation Requirements (PBGRs)*. Discussion followed around topics related to PBGRs, including college applications and scholarships, and grade point averages.

### 4.0 Consent Agenda and Reports

4.1 **Approve Minutes of 10.16.19 & 10.23.19: Chris McVeigh moved to approve the minutes of 10-16-19 and 10-23-19. Seconded by Vera Frazier. Discussion: Jonas Eno-Van Fleet noted that he had neglected to include the board’s conclusion after coming out of Executive Session on October 16, 2019. The minutes were edited to include that detail. Motion carried.**

4.2 Approve Board Orders: **Dorothy Naylor moved to approve the board orders in the amounts of \$1,526,337.15, and \$37,864.44. Seconded by Chris McVeigh, this motion carried unanimously.** Jonas Eno-Van Fleet asked for Lori Bibeau to plan in the future providing some training to board members about how to read the board orders.

4.3 Superintendent Report: Superintendent Taylor invited questions or comments about her written report. Jonas Eno-Van Fleet thanked Superintendent Taylor for her reflections about equity. Some discussion followed around this topic. Superintendent Taylor indicated that she is expecting a follow up report from the Integrated Field Review within a few weeks.

4.4 Leadership Team Report: Board members had reviewed this written report. No questions or comments followed.

4.5 Student Representative Report: Both Mia Smith and Townes DeGroot spoke about some of the student happenings, including some discussions during call-back around issues such as the Confederate flag as a hate symbol versus freedom of speech.

5.0 Book Reflection – Equity from the Board Room to the Classroom Chapters 4, 5 & 6: The board did not address this tonight. Board members had provided, and will consider, written feedback about the most recent reading assignment.

## 6.0 Policy

6.1 Committee Report: Chris McVeigh reported that at the most recent policy committee meeting, some proposed policies had been discussed. He invited some of the stakeholders and collaborators to discuss with the board.

Alden Bird, English teacher, spoke about the policy around “hate symbols.” He indicated that, after talking with students and giving this consideration as a teacher in the school day-to-day, he does not support a policy that bans or censors symbols. He feels that this topic is better addressed through open and civil communication, and empowering students to discuss and educate other students about these issues.

Chris McVeigh stated that there are differing opinions around this issue, but one of the questions is “who decides what defines a ‘hate symbol’?”

Townes DeGroot indicated that the goal of the policy is to make students feel safe in the school community. He noted that some students do not feel safe on a daily basis.

Steven Dellinger-Pate spoke about the current Hazing, Harassment, Bullying Policy. He noted that he is not sure the proposed policy adds to the existing policies.

Jonas Eno-Van Fleet spoke about the difference that he sees, between a Black Lives Matter flag and a Confederate flag.

Lindy Johnson asked about the scenario, for example, if a student had a bumper sticker on their car in the parking lot, or a confederate flag affixed to their car, would a policy apply?

Vera Frazier stated that she prefers leaving this in the hands of the administrators through the Hazing, Harassment, Bullying policy, to respond to each unique circumstance, and to provide opportunities for learning.

Jonas Eno-Van Fleet indicated that regardless of whether the board adopts a new policy, he hopes that the board is in agreement that a Confederate flag is considered a hate symbol and does not reflect the values of the board.

Steven Dellinger-Pate suggested that the board address this through the Hazing, Harassment and Bullying Policy and its procedures.

The topic of restorative practice, including education, was discussed to augment the current policy with an educational component.

Chris McVeigh asked whether the board would like to provide input or a task to the Policy Committee. Board members agreed to first address the current policy around Hazing, Harassment and Bullying.

Townes DeGroot asked the board to take on this issue with a sense of urgency.

Regarding the C50 Comprehensive Sexual Health Program policy: Meg Falby spoke to the board about this proposed policy which includes a condom accessibility component. Chris McVeigh will make some adjustments to this policy, based on discussion tonight and the board will have a first reading. Jonas Eno-Van Fleet thanked Meg Falby for her work, advocacy, and for presenting to the board tonight.

6.2 Approve First Reading of A1 Board Member Conflict of Interest, C50 Comprehensive Sexual Health Program, D34 Library Media Center Selection & Reconsideration Policies: **Flor Diaz Smith moved to approve the following policies, for first reading: A1 Board Member Conflict of Interest, C50 Comprehensive Sexual Health Program, D34 Library Media Center Selection & Reconsideration. Seconded by Dorothy Naylor, this motion carried unanimously.**

7.0 Board Organization and Planning

7.1 Amendment of WCUUSD Articles Vote Results

7.2 Community Mapping Project Reminder

8.0 Personnel

8.1 Approve Hires: **Lindy Johnson moved to approve the hiring of the following: Julie McKinstry, Lisa Hodgson, Marie Eddy, Alan Hefferon, Fernando Carvalhosa. Seconded by Jaiel Pulskamp, this motion carried unanimously.**

Superintendent Taylor thanked the community for the support of the amendment articles vote, and Jonas Eno-Van Fleet thanked David Delcore for the clear, concise article in the Times Argus.

9.0 Future Agenda Items

9.1 CV Fiber - Solar Power

9.2 Possible Renaming of District

10.0 Board Reflection and Summary of Meeting – Next Steps for Board Members

Executive Session: At 9:57 pm Flor Diaz Smith moved to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing negotiations. Seconded by Lindy Johnson, this motion carried unanimously.

Chris McVeigh moved to come out of executive session, Lindy Johnson seconded.

Motion passed unanimously at 10:15 pm.

**Chris McVeigh moved to adopt the administration's position on negotiations. Dorothy Naylor seconded. Motion passed unanimously at 10:15 pm.**

Discussion about composition and number of members on the negotiations committee.

**Flor Diaz-Smith moved to add Vera Frazier to the negotiations committee, Dorothy Naylor seconded. Motion passed unanimously at 10:18 pm.**

Flor Diaz-Smith moved to go into executive session, Vera Frazier seconded.

Motion passed unanimously at 10:19 pm.

Lindy Johnson moved to come out of executive session, Jaiel seconded.

Motion passed unanimously at 10:25 pm.

**Dorothy Naylor moved to accept the administration's recommendation not to provide a tuition waiver, Lindy Johnson seconded. Motion passed unanimously at 10:26 pm.**

11.0 Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 10:26 pm by consensus.

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