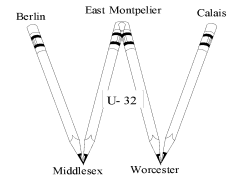


Washington Central Unified Union School District

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 Minutes

10.16.19 6:30PM

East Montpelier Elementary School Music Room, 665 Vincent Flats Road,
E. Montpelier

approved 11-6-19

Board Members Present: Vera Frazier, Marylyne Strachan, Flor Diaz Smith, Scott Thompson, Dorothy Naylor, Chris McVeigh, Lindy Johnson, Jaiel Pulskamp, Jonas Eno-Van Fleet, George Gross, Mia Smith (student representative)

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

Others Present: Kate McCann, Ellen Knoedler, Michelle Singer, Melissa Wheeler, Justine Guthrie, Elizabeth Wirth, Jillian Zeilenga, Michael Sherwin, Sian Foulkes, Nicole Blair, Tracy Phillips, Monique Trepanier, Amber Neddo, Sara Garland, Mandy Mislak, Ellen Shedd & 5th graders

1.0 Call to Order: Scott Thompson called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

1.1 Reception of Guests: Scott Thompson welcomed the guests.

1.2 Agenda Revisions: **Dorothy Naylor moved, given the time frame, to revise the agenda so the book reflection discussion is at the end of the meeting.** She would like to take care of board business while the public members are present. **Chris McVeigh seconded.** Discussion followed. Flor Diaz Smith suggested that the book discussion will be important to set the tone for the discussion agenda tonight. **A vote was called. This motion carried, with six in favor.**

1.3 Public Comments: Kate McCann, Math Teacher at U-32, presented a letter to the board on behalf of 106 members of the Washington Central Educators Association. The letter asks the board to address Vermont School Board Association negotiators, asking to go back to the table to negotiate for health care.

2.0 Spotlight – East Montpelier Principal, Alicia Lyford: Principal Lyford introduced the fifth grade students who attended the meeting to present some work to the board. Fifth grade students shared some of their products, including e-books, videos, watercolor paintings, resulting from their study of monarch butterflies.

3.0 Book Reflection – Equity from the Board Room to the Classroom Chapter 4 (this was tabled.)

4.0 Reports (Discussion)

4.1 Superintendent: Superintendent Taylor had provided a written report. She thanked the fifth grade students. Superintendent Taylor spoke about the need to hire a part time elementary teacher for Calais School. Dorothy Naylor shared that she had attended a parent meeting at Calais School, for discussion about this staffing issue. Dorothy Naylor asked board members to do the best they can to involve the communities and to participate in the school happenings. Jaiel Pulskamp suggested that administrative assistants at each school might share school newsletters with board members so they can be aware of ongoing news and happenings. Cat Fair spoke about the need for this 0.5 FTE position, for this current school year; she shared about some changes in student demographics and needs.

Superintendent Taylor shared that Doty anticipates increasing a math interventionist position to full time; this is the result of a grant to support school improvement.

4.2 Student: Mia Smith shared that students are taking the PSAT and pre-ACT assessments at this time. She shared some other student happenings, including fall sports.

5.0 Consent Agenda (Action)

5.1 **Approve Minutes of 10.2.19: Chris McVeigh moved to approve the minutes of October 2, 2019. Seconded by Flor Diaz Smith. Discussion: Scott Thompson pointed out a misspelling of a name. This motion carried unanimously.**

5.2 **Approve Board Orders: George Gross moved to approve the board orders in the amount of: \$332,100.38, and \$11,701.97. Seconded by Flor Diaz Smith, this motion carried unanimously.**

6.0 Finance Committee (Discussion/Action)

6.1 Committee Report: Flor Diaz Smith and Vera Frazier shared briefly from the most recent Finance Committee meeting. Board members briefly discussed the concept of “equity.”

6.2 Approve Self-Funded Dental Insurance Rates: Lori Bibeau shared that Washington Central has self-funded a dental plan for approximately 25 years. She had provided information for the board to take action. **Lindy Johnson moved to approve the self-funded dental insurance rates as presented. Seconded by Chris McVeigh, this motion carried unanimously.**

6.3 Approve Section 125 Flexible Benefits (MSA) & Health Reimbursement Account Budget: Lori Bibeau had shared information for board members to consider this action. **Vera Frazier moved to approve the health reimbursement and the flexible**

spending account budgets, as presented. Seconded by Flor Diaz Smith, this motion carried unanimously.

6.4 Approve Early Retirement Option for Teachers: Lindy Johnson noted that the current contract language is outdated in light of the merge. Lori Bibeau stated that this option has not been offered except from one school, in the past five years. **Flor Diaz Smith moved to approve early retirement option for teachers. Seconded by Dorothy Naylor. A vote was called and this motion failed, unanimously. Early retirement options will not be offered.**

6.5 Board Payment of Election Expenses (Possible Action): Debra Taylor indicated that she and Lori Bibeau are still collecting information for this. This action is tabled until a later date.

7.0 Board Organization and Planning (Discussion)

7.1 Board Goal Monitoring: Superintendent Taylor provided a presentation to the board: *WCUUSD Fall Monitoring Report October 16, 2019*. Board members discussed the data at length. Board members discussed the achievement gap in the area of math. After this presentation, at 9:30 pm, Scott Thompson suggested that the board take what action is necessary and to table other agenda items until another meeting.

At 9:30 pm, the administrative team was excused.

Flor Diaz Smith shared a proposed letter to board members, to consider, regarding the shared debt issue that has been discussed. Scott Thompson had shared a letter addressing this issue, as well. The board did not take up this issue at tonight's meeting.

7.2 Legislator Meeting: tabled

7.3 Elementary School Choice: tabled

8.0 Personnel (Action)

8.1 Approve Hires: Superintendent Taylor explained the impetus for the three hires. **Chris McVeigh moved to approve the three hires (Karen Leibermann, Marie Eddy, Michelle Brett increase of FTE) as presented. Seconded by George Gross, this motion carried unanimously.**

9.0 Future Agenda Items

9.1 CV Fiber - Solar Power

9.2 Possible Renaming of District

9.3 Community Mapping Project Report

9.4 Budget Forum Planning

9.5 Proficiency Based Grading and Graduating Class of 2020

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

11.0 Student Matter (Executive Session):

At 9:36 pm, Jonas Eno-Van Fleet moved to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a student matter. Seconded by Chris McVeigh, this motion carried unanimously.

At 9:43 pm Dorothy Naylor moved to exit Executive Session. Seconded by Lindy Johnson seconds, this motion carried unanimously.

Dorothy Naylor moved to waive short-term tuition for a student. Flor Diaz-Smith seconds, this motion carried unanimously.

Brief discussion of VSBA role in statewide healthcare negotiations.

Flor Diaz-Smith volunteered to summarize the meeting for submission to Front Porch Forum.

12.0 Adjournment

At 9:49 pm the meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent.

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