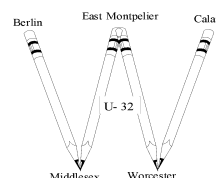


Washington Central Unified Union School District

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

10.2.19 6:30PM

U-32 Room 128/131, 930 Gallison Hill Rd, Montpelier

approved 10-16-19

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

Administrators Present: Superintendent Debra Taylor, Director of Special Services Kelly Bushey, Director of Curriculum 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

Others Present: Mark Andrews; David Delcore, Times Argus; ORCA videographer; Rick and Helena Kehne, Calais; David Lawrence, Middlesex; Matthew DeGroot, Worcester; Corinne Stridsberg, Berlin; Paul Cate, East Montpelier

- 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 guests.
- 1.2 Agenda Revisions: Scott Thompson explained that the agenda item “public comments” has been moved to the end of the agenda. He explained that if any of the public wishes to make a comment at an earlier point in the meeting rather than waiting until the end, they are welcome. Corinne Stridsberg asked for an explanation as to why this agenda item has been moved to the end. She stated that she does not believe this encourages public participation.

Chris McVeigh moved to have Public Comments at the beginning of the agenda. Seconded by Marylynne Strachan. Discussion: Board members discussed the challenge of keeping the purpose of the board meeting to accomplish its work and to manage time. Some discussion followed around the desire to invite public comment but to avoid time-consuming back-and-forth discussion with the board. A vote was called. **This motion carried unanimously.**

2.0 Spotlight – U-32 Principal, Steven Dellinger-Pate – Tour and Update: Steven Dellinger-Pate led a tour to the auditorium. He provided an update on the track project. The track surface will not be completed until May 2020.

3.0 Book Reflection – Equity from the Board Room to the Classroom Chapter 3: Gillian Fuqua facilitated a book reflection activity.

Groups reported themes that were discussed:

- How to make PLCs work? What is the level of parent involvement? How to embrace all of the stakeholders to involve everyone? Thinking outside the box.
- Importance of building a shared understanding of our purpose and direction.
- Norms for meetings; having collaborative work be a safe space; feeling supported. The necessity for shared vision and shared goals. How to make space and time for this while completing all of the requirements in our work?
- How to improve and enhance board training. How to create infrastructure to support teams. Some discussion of teams that are highly successful. “Talent wins games, but teamwork wins championships.”
- Theme of “communication” between students/ teachers, between parents/ teachers, keeping lines of communication open and trusting.

4.0 Reports

4.1 Superintendent: Debra Taylor had provided a written report. She shared that she has met with our local legislators; she asked when is the best time to invite them to a board meeting. They had suggested fall (as opposed to the traditional February time frame.) Scott Thompson suggested adding this topic to the next agenda. Townes DeGroot followed up on the issue of a Social/ Emotional Health work group. Kelly Bushey invited him to meet with her so that she can apprise him and explore ways to include him in the initiative.

4.2 Leadership Team: Board members reviewed the written report. Brief discussion ensued.

4.3 Student: Townes DeGroot shared about the student Climate Strike. He noted that a group of students intends to present to the Policy Committee about a proposed policy around sexual health. Debra Taylor is going to be sure that Townes and Mia are included on the email list.

Jonas Eno-Van Fleet asked Townes what he hears from students about the policy that requires students to miss extra curricular activities if they choose to attend an activity such as the Climate Strike versus attending school. Some discussion followed about this topic.

At 8:15, Superintendent Taylor invited administrators and student representative to leave the meeting.

Chris McVeigh moved to release the administrators and student representative to exit the meeting if desired. Seconded by Dorothy Naylor, this motion carried unanimously.

5.0 Consent Agenda

5.1 Approve Minutes of 9.18.19: **Flor Diaz Smith moved to approve the minutes of September 18, 2019. Seconded by Chris McVeigh. Discussion: a few edits were suggested. This motion carried unanimously.**

6.0 Finance

6.1 Approve Board Orders: **Flor Diaz Smith moved to approve the board orders in the following amounts: \$188,550.09 and \$129,650.54. Seconded by Lindy Johnson.** Discussion: Vera Frazier asked about one of the GMPC board orders; Debra Taylor will look into that issue and update the board. Scott Thompson noted that many of the orders are with Amazon - he asked whether there is consideration for purchasing some items locally. Lindy Johnson reminded the board to be careful of questioning such detail. Jen Miller-Arsenault explained the procurement process that is required when using federal funds. **This motion carried unanimously.**

7.0 Committee Reports

7.1 Negotiations: Jonas Eno-Van Fleet shared that the committee had met. The next meeting will be in late October, to review the Interest Based Bargaining process.

7.2 Policy: Chris McVeigh shared that the policy committee had met. He shared some of the policies that are next on the docket for the committee to consider.

8.0 Board Organization and Planning

8.1 Superintendent Search Consultant: Scott Thompson had shared with board members the proposal from Mark Andrews to provide consultation for the superintendent search. Flor Diaz Smith had reached out to some others to see if there is interest in other proposals for consultants; none was expressed.

Chris McVeigh moved to engage Mark Andrews formally as consultant in the superintendent search for a position to begin 2020-21 school year. Seconded by Dorothy Naylor. Discussion: Board members are in agreement. **This motion carried unanimously.**

Scott Thompson will inform the Secretary of Education.

8.2 Schedule for Board Goal Monitoring: Superintendent Taylor had provided a memo to the board about her intentions to share progress monitoring around board goals. Vera Frazier reminded her that the board would like to see the complete picture, including good news and bad news. Board members asked for a copy of the board goals document which was created in October 2018. (no action taken.)

8.3 Dates for Community Budget Forums: Superintendent Taylor had provided a memo proposing the following dates:

December 4, 2019 and December 11, 2019 at U-32

January 15, 2019 at Calais Elementary

February 19, 2019 at Doty Memorial

All meetings will be held at 5:30 pm

Upon successful vote of the articles under consideration by the electorate on

November 5, 2019, the WCUUSD will also hold its annual meeting at 6:30 pm at U-32 on Monday, March 2, 2020.

Board members agreed on these dates and times. The hope is that the board will vote to approve a budget on January 15th.

9.0 Personnel

9.1 Approve Hires: Debra Taylor indicated that Alex Rob (Community Connections) will be leaving soon; Kim Bolduc will replace him. She thanked Mr. Rob for his dedication to the program. (no action taken.)

10.0 Public Comments: none at this time

11.0 Future Agenda Items: Vera Frazier indicated that discussing renaming the district at the meetings where the public is present for budget discussion is important, for public engagement in the process. Superintendent Taylor indicated that the policy committee would like for the board to discuss the topic of elementary school choice. Vera Frazier stated that she would like to discuss this as a board.

Jonas Eno-Van Fleet asked for follow up information about a previous topic: school bus snow tires. Superintendent Taylor shared that this has been discussed with transportation; she will update the board.

Vera Frazier asked for an update about Proficiency-Based Grading for this graduating class.

Jonas Eno-Van Fleet stated that the updated website is very helpful in terms of meeting dates and links to minutes and video recordings of meetings.

- 11.1 CV Fiber - Solar Power
- 11.2 Possible Renaming of District
- 11.3 MTSS Update

12.0 Reflection and Summary of Meeting – Next Steps for Board Members: Dorothy Naylor will write a reflection/ summary of the meeting.

Board members discussed meeting space setup in the various locations - they prefer to have seating configurations that are closer together and the public is nearby.

13.0 Adjournment: The board adjourned by consensus at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Stoudt, Board Recording Secretary