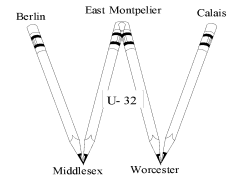


Washington Central Unified Union School District

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

9.4.19 6:30PM

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

Board Members Present: Scott Thompson, Jonas Eno-Van Fleet, Dorothy Naylor, Flor Diaz Smith, Lindy Johnson, Jaiel Pulskamp, Marylyne Strachan, Chris McVeigh, Vera Frazier

Administrators Present: Superintendent Debra Taylor, Director of Special Services Kelly Bushey, Business Administrator Lori Bibeau, Technology Coordinator Keith MacMartin, Berlin Principal Aaron Boynton, EMES Principal Alicia Lyford, Calais Principal Cat Fair, 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: David Delcore, Times Argus; ORCA videographer; Rick Kehne, Calais; Helena Kehne, Calais; Susan Ceglowski, VSBA; David Lawrence, Middlesex; Corinne Stridsberg, Berlin; Paul Cate, East Montpelier; John Pandolfo, East Montpelier

1.0 Call to Order: **Scott Thompson called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.**

1.1 Reception of Guests: Scott Thompson welcomed the guests and invited them to tour the school building with the board, when the time comes.

1.2 Agenda Revisions: no revisions

1.3 Public Comments: Scott Thompson noted that he has heard from some community members about the cost of lunch. Superintendent Taylor noted that she and Lori Bibeau intend to discuss with the Finance Committee: the possibility of subsidizing the cost of lunch for all students. This topic has been brought up in the past. She noted, since the Finance Committee will meet next week, the board will receive an update at the next regular board meeting.

2.0 Administrator Voices

2.1 Spotlight – U-32 Principal, Steven Dellinger-Pate – Tour and Update: Board members and those present toured the U-32 school building with 8th grade student ambassadors as guides. Steven Dellinger-Pate thanked the students, as well as Amy Molina, who organized the ambassadors for tonight. Principal Dellinger-Pate provided an update about summer school this past summer; fourteen students attended. He shared that the hood in the

kitchen had been replaced over the summer; the elevator had been repaired; the outdoor track is currently under construction - it should be ready by October. The track is off limits at this time while the surface cures.

2.2 Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Taylor had prepared a written report. She reviewed this document and invited questions or comments. She thanked Flor Diaz Smith and Scott Thompson for attending the inservice. She shared that the following two teachers have been nominated for Teacher of the Year: Ben Weiss and Christiana Martin. Enrollment is currently 1602 students.

2.3 Leadership Team Report: Board members had reviewed the written report. Administrators shared how the beginning of the year has gone in each school. All were in agreement that the inservice week had gone smoothly and that staff were appreciative to have the first two days in their local school buildings.

Lori Bibeau thanked the staff at central office for preparing the board order in advance, as requested, and for preparing payroll on time. Keith MacMartin thanked his staff for their hard work to support the beginning of the school year; technology has had two vacancies since late July, which he expects to fill in the near future. Jody Emerson shared that she has been able to have students participate in Restorative Justice training.

Flor Diaz Smith stated that she appreciated the information in the report. She would like to see updates on professional development activities for staff.

Jonas Eno-Van Fleet asked Lori Bibeau how this beginning of the year has been different from years past. She shared that having one treasurer, instead of many, helps streamline the process and the communication. She gave the efficiency example of a substitute teacher who works at several of the schools receiving only one paycheck

Gillian Fuqua gave the example of collaboratively addressing an issue around soccer for several elementary schools. She stated that three schools were able to work together to problem solve, resulting in a decision to hire a shared position of athletic director.

3.0 Consent Agenda

3.1 **Approve Minutes of 8.21.19: Jonas Eno-Van Fleet moved to approve the minutes of August 21, 2019. Seconded by Jaiel Pulskamp, this motion carried unanimously.**

4.0 Board Organization and Planning

4.1 WCUUSD Annual Meeting Date (Discussion): Superintendent Taylor explained options to the board, to change the annual meeting date, if there is a desire to do so. The meeting is currently planned on Town Meeting Day; she noted that if board members wanted to hold the annual meeting on a different day, within four days before Town Meeting Day, then a warned ballot vote will be required. Superintendent Taylor had summarized this information in a memo to the board, dated September 4, 2019.

Rick Kehne reminded the board of the importance of involving the community in the budget development conversations, as an Annual Meeting is too late for these discussions. He stated that he hopes the board will include the community in discussions about the direction of the district, going forward, not simply budget development.

Board members discussed having board officers voted by Australian ballot; this would solve the dilemma of having the Annual Meeting on Town Meeting Day creating a conflict with Town Clerks, having to be in two places to check voter lists. Some discussion followed. Dorothy Naylor stated that she thinks it is asking too much of Town Clerks as well as voters, to have the Annual Meeting on the same date as Town Meeting. Vera Frazier

suggested that the board wait to make a decision about this, until after Superintendent Taylor has spoken with the Town Clerks to get their input. Some discussion followed around the possibility of having a special vote in November to address this, since people are accustomed to voting in November. The board will revisit this issue at the next board meeting, after Superintendent Taylor has met with Town Clerks to gather information.

4.2 Board Goals and Work Plan

4.2.1 Community Mapping (Discussion): Flor Diaz Smith had provided a template and memo for board members to contribute to a compilation of groups, people and places in the communities, to facilitate with outreach and communication. Chris McVeigh reminded to be sure to get individuals' permission before sharing contact information.

Rick Kehne stated that he believes this is a good direction for the board; for instance, to reach out to Selectboards, as they are connected to their communities.

4.3 Book Reflection – Equity from the Board Room to the Classroom (Discussion): Jody Emerson facilitated a book reflection protocol, "Making Meaning," for groups of four. Some of the topics that came from this discussion:

- the importance of the democratic process
- having goals
- not one is more important than the rest of us: importance of collaboration
- culture
- what is collaboration? it is a style, more than a verb
- difference between climate and culture
- intentionality of creating culture
- Professional Learning Organization structure

4.4 Board Committees (Discussion)

4.4.1 Policy Committee Charge and Appointments (Action): **Chris McVeigh moved to establish a Policy Committee; the committee charge: "to review all existing policies, propose changes if necessary, and secure board approval by end June 2020. Draft new policies as necessary." Membership: Chris McVeigh, Jaiel Pulskamp and Marylynne Strachan. Seconded by Marylynne Strachan. This motion carried unanimously.**

4.5 Administrator Attendance at Meetings: Scott Thompson suggested that the superintendent direct the administrators as to expectations for attendance. Chris McVeigh stated that having the administrators present at board meetings is helpful in creating a culture of collaboration. Some discussion followed. Flor Diaz Smith indicated that having all of the administrators present through December might be appropriate. Board members asked administrators for their input around this decision. Some discussion followed around this topic. The consensus among board and administration was that attendance at all board meetings (twice monthly) is appropriate at this time.

4.5.1 Monthly/ Biweekly/Ad hoc (Action): no formal action was taken

4.6 VSBA Membership (Action)

4.6.1 Payment of VSBA Dues for FY 20 (Discussion/Action): **Lindy Johnson moved to approve payment of VSBA dues for FY20. Seconded by Jonas Eno-Van Fleet.** Discussion: at this time (8:55 p.m.), the board invited administrators to leave if they wished.

Chris McVeigh stated that he is not in favor of paying VSBA dues, for this year, particularly related to issues around Act 46. He noted that he has asked for information that he considers to be public record, but VSBA refuses to share, and that he is pursuing this.

Lindy Johnson indicated her support for VSBA.

Marylynne Strachan stated that it seems that trust has been broken; she asked, outside of Act 46, have there been other instances where board members feel that VSBA has not represented them appropriately?

Flor Diaz Smith spoke in favor of the services provided by VSBA.

Dorothy Naylor stated that she is not in favor of paying. She spoke about the Alliance of Vermont School Board Members as a possibility for support.

Scott Thompson asked, what best serves our people, young and old? He noted several different issues where VSBA has taken a stand that is not consistent with Washington Central. He noted that we might have more leverage if we opt to not pay dues this year.

Vera Frazier asked whether VSBA takes any ownership over the fact that trust and relationships have been damaged. Flor Diaz Smith indicated that they are aware and are addressing this.

Jaiel Pulskamp asked the amount of dues: approximately \$7K.

Scott Thompson invited input from the public.

Rick Kehne expressed his dissatisfaction with VSBA. He indicated that their actions have been egregious and he believes that paying dues for this year reinforces their actions.

John Pandolfo stated that he thinks leaving VSBA is short sighted; he reminded the board of the services VSBA offers, for example, around policies.

Corinne Stridsberg indicated that she believes we should pull out of VSBA.

Paul Cate indicated the same.

Jonas Eno VanFleet stated that he does not see how leaving VSBA benefits our path forward, or benefits the students. He stated that it is disappointing that we are hung up on Act 46 again; this seems punitive and not helpful, in the spirit of moving forward.

Vera Frazier indicated that she has mixed emotions. She stated that her biggest regret is that VSBA is not accepting ownership, to indicate that the organization will grow as a result of this hardship. She indicated that she will abstain at this time.

Brief discussion followed around conflict of interest.

Scott Thompson called the vote:

in favor: 4

opposed: 4

one abstention

In the event of a tie, the motion fails.

5.0 Finance (Discussion/Action)

5.1 Approve Board Orders (Action): **Jonas Eno-VanFleet moved to approve the board orders in the amounts of: \$1,163,997.76, and \$228,938.17. Seconded by Chris McVeigh. This motion carried unanimously.**

5.2 Board Fund Balance Transfers Report (Discussion): Lori Bibeau explained this document. She invited questions or comments. She indicated that the Finance Committee will discuss the fund balance transfers and issues such as reserve fund and capital fund at its meeting next week.

5.3 Approve Rumney Memorial School Playground Equipment Bid (Action): **Lindy Johnson moved to approve the Rumney Memorial Playground Equipment Bid in the amount of \$22,420.75, to Pettinelli and Associates. Seconded by Dorothy Naylor, this motion carried unanimously.**

5.4 Authorize Finance Committee to Approve Rumney Memorial School Tractor Bid (Action): Superintendent Taylor stated that the estimated cost will be between \$20K and \$25K, but specific information is not yet available, for board action tonight. In order to move the playground project forward, she asked to authorize the Finance Committee. **Chris McVeigh moved to authorize the Finance Committee to approve the Rumney Memorial school tractor bid. Seconded by Lindy Johnson, this motion carried unanimously.**

6.0 Personnel

6.1 Approve Hires (Action): none

7.0 Future Agenda Items

7.1 CV Fiber - Solar Power

7.2 Student Representative to School Board (9/18 meeting)

7.3 Possible Renaming of District

8.0 Reflection and Summary of Meeting – Next Steps for Board Members: Scott Thompson expressed his appreciation for the board and the community for their participation in the discussions tonight.

9.0 Adjournment: The meeting adjourned by consensus at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Stoudt, Board Recording Secretary