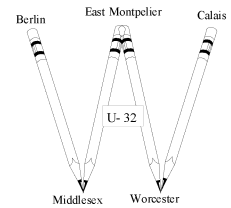


Washington Central Unified Union School District

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 Special Retreat Meeting **Approved Minutes** 7.15.19 at 5-8 PM

805 Horn of the Moon Road, Montpelier

approved 8-21-19

Board Members Present: Flor Diaz Smith, Jaeil Pulskamp, Scott Thompson, Marylynne Strachan, Jonas Eno-Van Fleet, George Gross, Jaeil Pulskamp, Chris McVeigh, Lindy Johnson

Administrators Present: Debra Taylor, Superintendent

Others Present: David Delcore, Times Argus

- 1.0 Call to Order: Scott Thompson called the meeting to order at 5:13 p.m.
- 1.1 Welcome & Introductions: Scott and the board welcomed Debra.

- 2.0 VSBA Resolutions (Discuss and Vote)
Flor Diaz Smith had drafted resolutions and gotten feedback from some board members.
1st - related to debt re: Act 46
2nd - related to goals of Act 46 (monitoring Act 46 benefit outcomes)

Flor Diaz Smith moved to approve the following resolutions for VSBA:

- **we would like to have a fair way of adjusting property taxes within a school district that takes into consideration the impact of pre-existing school debt has on small towns after Act 46 consolidation.**
- **we would like to help establish guidelines to monitor meeting the goals of Act 46 and report on efficiencies, cost benefits, or student outcomes**

Seconded by Marylynne Strachan, this motion carried unanimously.

Jaeil noted that she has been considering a resolution to adopt green initiatives in the schools. She noted that four of the towns in the WCSU had adopted a similar resolution last year; she suggested that the schools adopt a similar resolution. Board members agreed that this can be considered in the future for a VSBA resolution. Discussion followed about other state statutes and resolutions around, for instance, green cleaning products.

Scott Thompson stated that, in the interest of time, he would like to withdraw the proposal he had suggested (via email) that the board discuss.

3.0 Retreat Discussion

3.1 Opportunities: What possibilities do board members see going forward?

3.2 Constraints: What limits on such possibilities do board members foresee?

3.3 Priorities: Which opportunities to pursue first, given constraints?

3.4 Means: How might we best organize & deploy ourselves to achieve our priorities?

Scott Thompson stated that a work plan will be created for the year ahead, including: budget development, policy adoption, superintendent search 2020-21, negotiations, and other possibilities such as: inventory of capital assets, sustainability issues.

He asked board members for input around opportunities, constraints, priorities, means. Lindy Johnson stated that there is a lot of good that is currently going on; a lot that is “not broken.”

George Gross asked what is already in play as far as priorities, e.g., around facilities. What mechanisms are in place to disseminate information around these issues?

Discussion followed around facilities and maintenance plans, district-wide.

Chris McVeigh suggested that the board create subcommittees. Discussion followed around this topic. Scott Thompson shared that Superintendent Kimball had warned to “think twice” before creating committees, in light of open meeting laws. The board discussed the idea of “a committee of one.”

Board round robin followed regarding priorities: budget development under this new configuration (and including community input), transparency, mapping out board meetings and locations. Possibility of first meeting of the month at U-32; second meeting of the month rotating to elementary schools.

- an opportunity: greater integration of programs (e.g. music program at U-32)

Board members suggested the idea of having input from school administrators around such issues as: staffing, foodservice programs, class size. Debra Taylor suggested asking administrators to suggest topics around which to gather such information, as they are the people in the thick of it. The topic of equity was discussed. Topics discussed: foreign language, music programs.

Brief discussion followed around diversity and bullying.

- Project based learning, proficiency based learning
- Discussion of curriculum, district-wide
- opportunity: Central Vermont Career Center

Debra Taylor suggested adding board representation to Central Vermont Career Center to the next board agenda.

Discussion followed around preparing high school students to be successful in the world - for example, financial literacy, community service, again, proficiency based learning.

Scott Thompson stated that he intends to synthesize his notes from this evening and share with board members as a summary, so that the board can create priorities and plans to achieve said priorities.

Debra Taylor asked board members at a future meeting, to consider their priorities and to create a specific directive.

August 1, 12:00 - 3:00 - next board meeting/ retreat (with admin)

Flor Diaz Smith suggested creating a work plan in the meantime, to consider at the August meeting.

Debra Taylor asked the board whether there are any topics that they would like the admin team to address when they meet later this month.

-“futures” protocol

-comparisons across the district, re: resources

Flor Diaz Smith stated that the focus of the August meeting was not intended for sharing reports but more intended to discuss and determine how to work together with administration, going forward.

Lindy Johnson stated that a calendar of board meetings should be ready in draft form for the August meeting.

Third Wednesday in August (August 21) is next regular board meeting.

Board training: August 19 6 p.m. (backup August 13). Flor Diaz Smith will check with Lori Bibeau as well as VSBA to see if one of these dates work.

Scott Thompson, Flor Diaz Smith, and Jonas Eno-Van Fleet will meet next week with Debra Taylor (July 23 9 a.m.) to develop an agenda for the August board meeting. Debra Taylor suggested that a week before meeting dates is an appropriate deadline for board members to provide suggestions for agenda items.

4.0 Summary

5.0 Preview of Retreat with Leadership Team

The meeting adjourned by consensus at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Stoudt, Board Recording Secretary