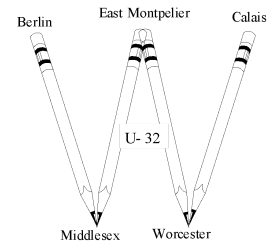


Washington Central Supervisory Union

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William Kimball
Superintendent



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

Washington Central Unified Union School District Transition Board

Approved Minutes

4.25.19

4:30 PM – 6:00 PM

Calais Elementary School Library, 321 Lightening Ridge Road, Plainfield VT

approved 5-2-19

Board Members Present: Matthew DeGroot, Dorothy Naylor, Flor Diaz Smith, Chris McVeigh, Scott Thompson, Vera Frazier, Will Baker

Administrators Present: Superintendent Bill Kimball, Business Administrator Lori Bibeau

Others Present: Jody Emerson, David Delcore (Times Argus), ORCA videographer, Rick Kehne, Helena Kehne

1.0 Call to Order: Matthew DeGroot called the meeting to order at 4:42 p.m.

1.1 Reception of Guests: Matthew DeGroot welcomed the guests and asked whether there were any particular items on the agenda that they wished to address. There were not.

1.2 Agenda Revisions & Board Comments: none

1.3 Public Comments & Correspondence: none

2.0 Consent Agenda

2.1 Approve Minutes of 4.8.19 and 4.12.19 - **Chris McVeigh moved to approve the minutes of April 8, 2019, and April 12, 2019. Seconded by Dorothy Naylor.** Discussion: Matthew DeGroot noted that the April 12th meeting was held via teleconference; also that the motion was voted by roll call, and he believes the names of the voters should be noted in the minutes. Vera Frazier suggested an edit - that Matthew DeGroot was present at the April 8th meeting. **This motion carried, with noted edits.**

3.0 Discussion Agenda

3.1 New WCUUSD Board Membership

3.1.1 Petitions Received: Matthew DeGroot shared that the following petitions have been received in Worcester: Jonas Eno-VanFleet, Jaiel Pulskamp. Board members shared the names of candidates from their towns that have submitted petitions to be on the ballot for the election to the WCUUSD Board.

3.1.2 Public Forum to Meet Candidates: Scott Thompson stated that the Vermont League of Women Voters had expressed an interest in helping to organize a forum at U-32. Flor Diaz Smith noted that Rosie Laquerre (East Montpelier Town Clerk) had suggested that the candidates share something in the local paper, *The Sign Post*. Superintendent Kimball suggested that an opportunity to meet the candidates might be coordinated with one of the next two planned meetings - May 9th or May 15th. Without objection, the board agreed to set this date for May 9th at 7 p.m. Scott Thompson and Dorothy Naylor offered to reach out to the interested parties - e.g. Vermont League of Women Voters, and Susan Clark - to invite their participation as they had offered. Flor Diaz Smith shared that town clerks have indicated that voters are asking for absentee ballots, and would like to have information about opportunities to meet the candidates. Scott Thompson and/or Dorothy Naylor will ask candidates to provide something in writing by a certain date, to Krista Metivier, and she will post this on the WCSU website. Board members discussed how it will be important to inform communities about the voting/ election procedures for this occasion. Matthew DeGroot will draft something to share, supervisory-union-wide.

3.2 Articles of Agreement: Flor Diaz Smith shared that the committee has worked out many of the articles (four), and has narrowed down some of the other more difficult issues (school closure and debt), but is asking for input from the Transition Board. Matthew DeGroot noted that the board that gets elected in May will be the board that warns the budget. He suggests that it is more appropriate if that board also warns a vote on articles of agreement. He noted that the Transition Board ceases to exist when the WCUUSD Board is sworn in. Superintendent Kimball stated that this board has the authority to warn the articles of agreement. Matthew DeGroot suggested, to make it less complicated and confusing for voters, to have the one board (WCUUSD) warn these votes.

Will Baker asked what level of consensus does this group need in order to move the articles of agreement forward. Answer: consensus of majority.

3.3 Transition Notifications: Lori Bibeau and Superintendent Kimball had shared with the board a list of payroll/ benefit notifications that will be needed to make for a smooth transition; some are needed by May first. Board members discussed the fact that there is still much up in the air around merged districts. Scott Thompson asked, if the board takes action to approve these transitions, and the ruling comes down that the forced merge does not have to happen this year, have we boxed ourselves in, to go forward? Some discussion followed around the existing accounts being in operation until June 30th and these new accounts being operational on July 1st. Lori Bibeau stated that, with these deadlines, we are no longer able to continue to operate on dual tracks, we have to go one way or the other.

Rick Kehne asked whether the board taking this action is signalling that we are in fact consolidating? Discussion followed. Lori Bibeau stated that she does not recommend delaying a merge for a year; she is prepared to be operational on July 1st as a merged board. Flor Diaz Smith expressed concern about protecting our employees - that moving forward in a timely manner is needed. She wants our employees to know that "we have their backs." Rick Kehne stated that he also believes the boards should honor the will of the communities as well; they should also know that "we have their backs."

Dorothy Naylor asked for clarification - if the merging of these accounts were needed to be "undone" in the future (if the legislation takes action to change the mandate of Act 46), then it is possible? Lori Bibeau - yes, it is.

Scott Thompson reminded the board that at the meeting which this board was created, a resolution was made and agreed upon that moving forward as mandated does not

constitute unanimous agreement. He believes that is part of the original charter of this board and that it applies to any action taken at this meeting tonight.

Superintendent Kimball stated that we are now working on the existing legislation as it stands. If there is a change in legislation in the future, then the board will have to make decisions, and he reiterated what Lori Bibeau had indicated, that, while it would be complicated and time consuming, and likely not recommended by central office staff, it would be possible if it is the will of the board.

Superintendent Kimball also shared information about how to continue to operate financially in anticipation of tax revenues, under the current unusual circumstances. He and Lori Bibeau will provide more information to the board at the next meeting. Lori Bibeau stated that much will come down to the voters approving a budget on June 25th.

3.4 Develop FY20 Budget to Recommend to New WCUUSD Board:
Superintendent Kimball shared that two formats of budget had been presented to the board, to show: each school district as they currently stand, as well as the one-board-one-budget scenario. The board will address this next week as well.

4.0 Action Agenda

4.1 Approve Transition Notifications: **Flor Diaz Smith moved to approve the transition notifications listed on page 5 of the agenda packet. Seconded by Will Baker.** Discussion: Scott Thompson stated that it's important that our schools can run, and it seems necessary for this to happen. At the same time, he noted that agreeing to this action does not indicate that he is agreeing to the forced merger in any way. He wants to be sure that is understood. Vera Frazier stated, from a business standpoint, that she sees the need to take this measure. Chris McVeigh indicated that, while he will vote in favor of this, he anticipates asking to walk it back at a future date if the state legislature makes some change. Will Baker stated that all we can do at this time is to take action based on the law as it stands today. Dorothy Naylor stated that, while she supports taking this action to support the staff, she does so "with a bad taste in her mouth," and that she believes being forced to take this action two months in advance is one of the downsides of being tied to technology. **This motion carried unanimously.**

Will Baker moved to authorized the Superintendent to sign all documents and contracts on behalf of the WCUUSD. Seconded by Chris McVeigh. Discussion: Lori Bibeau explained this need. **This motion carried unanimously.**

5.0 Future Agenda Items: Matthew DeGroot invited board members to email suggested future agenda items.

6.0 Board Communication: none

7.0 Adjournment: The meeting adjourned by consensus at 5:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Lisa Stoudt, Board Recording Secretary