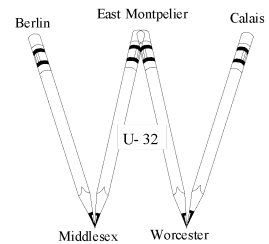


Washington Central Supervisory Union

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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 Board
Special Meeting -Approved Minutes
5.31.19
5 PM

Central Office, 1130 Gallison Hill Rd, Montpelier

approved 6-5-19

In attendance:

Scott Thompson, Lindy Johnson, George Gross, Marylynne Strachan, Flor Diaz-Smith, Vera Frazier

On the phone:

Jaiel Pulskamp

Also present:

Bill Kimball, Superintendent; David Delcore, Times Argus

1.0 Call to Order – 5:05pm Chair Scott Thompson calls meeting to order, asks for motion to approve the corrected amendments to Articles of Agreement as outlined in meeting agenda.

2.0 Discussion Agenda

2.1 WCUUSD Amendments to Articles of Agreement Warning

Lindy Johnson suggests adjusting the numeration of the amendments to the Articles of Agreement to make WARNING Article 4 to say “Article 16” and WARNING Article 5 to say “Article 16”

Lindy Johnson suggests delaying amendments to avoid any further confusion.

Scott Thompson is reluctant to vote on delay the amendments without the presence of Chris McVeigh.

Vera Frazier arrives.

Scott Thompson has concern that if the board reopens the question of warning the amendments to the Articles of Agreement that it could be seen as “sneaky.” His concern is the perception of reversing a major decision in the absence of a board member who was key to that decision. This

reminds him of when the U32 board was voting on the decision to join the appeal to block the merge, at a meeting where two board members were not present, the decision to join the appeal could have been made. Feels it's not "cricket."

George Gross agrees and notes that the board can go back and make more changes in the future.

Scott Thompson says Chris McVeigh made a strong argument at the previous meeting that these are necessary safeguards for crossing the July 1 threshold, and it is incumbent upon him as chair to respect that.

Flor Diaz-Smith also supports delaying the articles, what ended up convincing her was an email sent by Scott Thompson to the effect that the default Articles of Agreement are faulty. That made her think, Ok, if this is what it takes to consensus, let's not do the amendments right now because we would win more from knowing how we will work as a group. Two people asked her today, if I vote No on an article, or I vote Yes, how does that affect the merger process? Does not want to make things more complicated, really wanted those amendments and that would have the character of us.

Scott Thompson was impressed by Chris's statement at the last meeting, to the effect that does amending the articles now make a real difference? If we were to reopen this question of amending the articles on June 5, can we de-warn a vote?

Bill Kimball says a board can stop an election, reflected in Chris Leopold's letter. The board can do nothing, the board can correct the warning, or the board can stop the vote on the articles. Chris Leopold's best guidance is to correct the warning and go forward.

Discussion of who will attend the meeting on June 5.

George Gross says his impression has been that the board was going to push this board forward and get something set and then go back and revisit it. Does not agree with all the amendments as written now, and thought the board would come to a "happy medium" and revisit the Articles of Agreement in the fall.

Discussion that only the voters can amend the Articles and that any amendments would need to be warned and voted on.

Flor Diaz-Smith says the only strong articles that came out were to add board members, and the article on closing schools.

George Gross says that was his impression too, and that's why he was comfortable going forward now, and revisiting the Articles of Agreement later.

Flor Diaz-Smith says that if we don't do anything, we're going to be spending dollars. But we can prioritize this, and instead of doing it twice, do it right, once. Doesn't think there isn't anyone on the board that doesn't WANT to do amendments, and it would be great to put that to vote as a package.

Marylynne Strachan asks if we can put the corrections to the amendments on the agenda for June 5?

Bill Kimball says town clerks are nervous about not having ballots yet.

Vera Frazier says that from her point of view, the agenda tonight does not say anything about rescinding the warning and would not want to take that vote tonight. If the board is going to have that conversation to rescind, that time has passed. Not okay to turn back the clock.

Scott Thompson says Vera's point is very well taken.

Vera Frazier says that's not fair to other board members.

Scott Thompson agrees that this would be a major policy agenda. We've covered ground, and we have a motion. Do we care to take a motion on it?

Discussion about remuneration of articles, Bill Kimball says that will be cleaned up and does need to be moved.

3.0 Action Agenda

3.1 Approve the WCUUSD Amendments to Articles of Agreement Warning

Marylynne Strachan moves to approve the corrected warning of the amendments to the articles of agreement. George Gross seconds.

Motion is to approve the corrected warning to the amendments of the default Articles of Agreement. George Gross seconds.

Roll Call

Lindy Johnson Yes

Scott Thompson Yes

George Gross Yes

Vera Frazier Yes

Flor Diaz-Smith Yes

Marylynne Strachan Yes

Jaiel Pulskamp Yes

Jonas Eno-Van Fleet Yes

Vote is unanimous, motion passes.

Scott Thompson notes there is no other business on the agenda, but that the board will meet again next Wednesday on June 5.

4.0 Adjournment - **Meeting is adjourned by consensus at 5:25pm.**