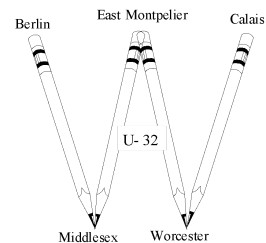


Washington Central Supervisory Union

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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

Approved Meeting Minutes
6.12.19 at 6:30 PM

U-32 Middle/High School Room 128/131

Approved 6-26-19

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

Administrators Present: Superintendent Bill Kimball, Director of Special Services Kelly Bushey, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment Jen Miller-Arsenault, Business Administrator Lori Bibeau, U-32 Principal Steven Dellinger-Pate, U-32 Assistant Principal Bill Deis, Doty Principal Matt Young, Rumney Principal Aimee Toth, Berlin Principal Aaron Boynton, Calais Principal Cat Fair, U-32 Assistant Principal Jody Emerson, EMES Principal Alicia Lyford

Others Present: ORCA videographer; Times Argus David Delcore; Nicole Mace, VSBA; Susan Holson, VSBA; Sue Ceglowski, VSBA; Helena Kehne, Calais; Richard Kehne, Calais; Neil Odell VSBA; Jim Salsgiver, VSBA; Jeff Fannon, Calais (also VTNEA); John Brabant, Calais; Ellen Knoedler, East Montpelier; Michael Duane, East Montpelier; Rubin Bennett, East Montpelier; Bridget Asay, MRPS; Michele Braun, MRPS

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 those present; introductions were made.

1.2 Agenda Revisions & Board Comments: Scott Thompson suggested moving action item 5.9 to the top of the action agenda. Scott Thompson indicated that he has one goal for the meeting, that by the end of the meeting, we don't all go away "hating each other." He also noted that, going forward, the configuration/ seating arrangement protocol may change. He invited feedback from those present.

1.3 Public Comments & Correspondence: Vera Frazier shared that she had received an email stating that meeting dates are not shared on the web pages and public calendars; however, Rubin Bennett stated he was able to find that information online. John Brabant asked whether the public will be permitted to participate in discussions during the course of the meeting. Scott Thompson stated that his intention is to do so; however, if the meeting agenda and time constraints require, he may have to curtail some of the discussion.

2.0 Administrator Voices: Administrators shared plans for professional learning during the summer months.

3.0 Consent Agenda

3.1 Approve Minutes of 6.5.19: **Flor Diaz Smith moved to approve the minutes of June 5, 2019. Seconded by Dorothy Naylor, this motion carried unanimously.**

3.2 Approve Board Orders: no board orders tonight

4.0 Discussion Agenda

4.1 VSBA Dues: Scott Thompson invited members of the VSBA to speak to the board, to initiate discussion around VSBA dues. Representatives for VSBA spoke about the mission: to support board members in their roles. Jeff Fannon of VTNEA spoke briefly regarding the relationship between VSBA and VTNEA.

Chris McVeigh asked for clarification about negotiations regarding health care this past year. Nicole Mace explained. He also asked about relationships between VSBA, Vermont Principals Association and Vermont Superintendents Association.

Michael Duane spoke about his understanding about the health care negotiations issue, including the fact that VSBA filed an unfair labor practice claim against NEA. He asked whether email exchanges might be made public.

Richard Kehne reminded VSBA that they are to represent school boards and that they have thrown the Vermont school boards under the bus. He stated that VSBA is no longer representing us. He stated that it is clear based on actions from the past five years that we are not being represented fairly.

John Brabant asked that board members not rush to approving membership; take their time. He reminded board members that the testimony of the Vice President of VSBA made to the Department of Education does not support the towns of this supervisory union. He asked board members to watch the video of this testimony. He asked the board to consider becoming members of the Alliance for Vermont School Board Members, a newly formed organization.

Rubin Bennett shared his perspective. He asked that board members consider the ongoing supportive relationship that they have with VSBA and not take punitive action over a specific issue (for example, Act 46).

Scott Thompson stated that he is grateful that the board has the luxury of taking time to deliberate over this issue and take action based on thoughtful discussion. This will be revisited at a future meeting, or future meetings. He thanked VSBA members and advocates for attending.

Lindy Johnson shared an email she had received today from an East Montpelier community member, urging WSUUSD board members to maintain VSBA membership.

John Brabant asked this the content of the email be added to the public record.

Ellen Knoedler asked when the answers to the questions that were posed tonight will be shared. Superintendent Kimball suggested that the follow up questions be put in writing and provided to VSBA for written response to be shared.

4.2 Recommended Policies: Superintendent Kimball shared a table of policies, including some that need to be in place immediately to create student handbooks for the start of 2019-20 school year. Board members discussed the possibility of adopting a slate of policies to keep the schools running smoothly, keeping in mind that at the end of this school year, the board may revisit some of the policies.

4.3 Facilities Work for Summer and Going Forward: Superintendent Kimball had provided an overview of facilities work that is currently planned for the summer.

4.4 Retreat: Flor Diaz Smith reviewed some of the ideas that board members had created: to have short board meeting (retreat) in July, without administrators, to discuss board roles, and, further, in August, a larger retreat, including administrators, to discuss other topics related to school board effectiveness. Jonas Eno-Van Fleet stated that, as a new board member, he would appreciate an opportunity to meet and discuss in a more free-flowing dynamic. Dates were discussed: August 1st is a date that is likely to work for administrators and board members together. July 17th is another possible date, to include the new superintendent.

Flor Diaz Smith asked for input regarding content for these meetings. Board members would like Flor Diaz Smith, Scott Thompson, and Jonas Eno-VanFleet to prepare topics for content and provide to board members for feedback.

4.5 Meeting Protocols

4.5.1 Dates: July 17th, August 1st, and then first and third Wednesdays as agreed upon.

4.5.2 Sub-Committees: Scott Thompson suggested making this a retreat topic.

4.6 Communication for Budget & Amendments: Scott Thompson had shared a draft of information for communication. Board discussion followed. Flor Diaz Smith stated that she feels that we need to move forward in a short amount of time and would like to share information without it being inflammatory.

Lindy Johnson also stated that she feels some of the information in this draft document is inflammatory, and that she doesn't believe it should have been shared for public input at this point.

Richard Kehne stated that he does not believe the board should be hiding the facts around the budget and its tax implications, and that he warns the board that they are not starting on the right foot if they do not state the facts in this document, and in this process.

Dorothy Naylor stated that our taxpayers should know exactly what they are paying for - the whole picture - that the truth is worth telling, even if it is painful; for example, that these tax increases are likely to go on for many years for some towns.

Flor Diaz Smith reiterated that the verbiage in the draft document is inflammatory, not that she believes the facts should be omitted.

Jonas Eno-VanFleet asked community members whether they believe that the verbiage around amendments is controversial? Michael Duane stated that the ballot is confusing.

Scott Thompson asked whether board members would continue to work on this draft document, and provide an update as soon as possible (tomorrow?) They will.

4.6.1 Budget & Article Informational Public Hearing 6.18.19 and 6.24.19: Superintendent Kimball reviewed this document. John Brabant asked that the board consider Allen Gilbert's op-ed and be sure that the figures that are shared to support this budget are accurate. Scott Thompson will be available at the meetings to present and to answer questions. Lori Bibeau will be present as well.

4.7 Litigation: Michael Duane stated that we are still waiting for a decision from Judge Mello - he had indicated that a decision might be forthcoming June 12th (today)

about various issues related to Act 46. He believes that this case will ultimately be decided by the Vermont Supreme Court. He suggested that the board not take action on item 5.8: "Approve Debt Form;" to wait on that item to see what the court decides, as this directly relates to the current litigation underway.

Jonas Eno-Van Fleet asked for some clarification from Michael Duane around the action to approve debt form. Brief discussion followed.

5.0 Action Agenda

5.1 Approve First Reading of Recommended Policies: Dorothy Naylor moved to approve first reading of recommended policies as presented. Seconded by Marylyne Strachan. This motion carried unanimously.

5.2 Approve Required Policies: Chris McVeigh moved to amend Policy A-1 to strike sub-C, and to add that any procedures that are currently in existence be attached to the policies to which they apply. Steven Dellinger-Pate stated that procedures are shared in handbooks, but that if policy and procedures are published together, then any time a procedure is changed, it must be done by board action. Chris McVeigh stated that having policy and procedure published in two separate places is not user friendly.

After discussion, **Chris McVeigh amended his motion to require administration to provide procedure to a policy, along with the policy, whenever a policy issue has been raised. Seconded by Marylyne Strachan, this motion carried unanimously. (This is an amendment to Policy A-1).**

Jonas Eno-Van Fleet asked that procedures be linked to policies, for instance on the webpage and in parent handbooks, to make these documents more intuitive and user friendly.

Flor Diaz Smith moved to approve required policies as presented, and amended previously, for school year 2019-2020. Seconded by Dorothy Naylor. Discussion: Jonas Eno-Van Fleet asked whether this will be a yearly action. Answer - it is not expected to be needed yearly. **This motion carried unanimously.**

5.3 Authorize Superintendent to Award Fuel Oil, Propane, Woodchip, and Wood Pellet Bids: Superintendent Kimball reviewed these bids. Lindy Johnson moved to authorize the superintendent to award these bids, as presented. Seconded by Flor Diaz Smith, this motion carried unanimously.

5.4 Authorize Superintendent to Sign All Documents & Contracts on Behalf of WCUUSD: Superintendent Kimball shared that one of the results of an audit from the past was to recommend this action. **Flor Diaz Smith moved to authorize the superintendent to sign all documents and contracts on behalf of WCUUSD. Seconded by George Gross, this motion carried unanimously.**

5.5 Approve Blanket Authorization for Check Orders: Chris McVeigh moved to approve blanket authorization for check orders, as presented. Seconded by Jonas Eno-Van Fleet. Discussion: **Scott Thompson suggested the following amendment: " , except that VSBA dues may only be paid upon an affirmative vote of the board, warned for this purpose."** **Seconded by Dorothy Naylor.** Flor Diaz Smith asked for clarification around this practice. Lori Bibeau and Superintendent Kimball explained this annual practice, to pay bills in a timely manner. Jonas Eno-Van Fleet asked whether there are other vendors which are required to be specifically denoted, as suggested re: VSBA.

None were heard. A vote was called on this amendment. **This motion carried, with two votes of “nay.”**

A vote was called on the original, amended motion to approve blanket authorization for check orders. This motion carried unanimously.

5.6 Approve Revenue Anticipation Note: Lori Bibeau explained this board authorization. She asked board members to sign this document on the day after the budget vote (assuming it passes.) **Dorothy Naylor moved to approve the revenue anticipation note and investment bid, as detailed on pages 42 -44, including the verbiage “contingent upon successful voter approval of the budget.” Seconded by Flor Diaz Smith, this motion carried unanimously.** Board members signed these documents.

5.7 Award Investment Bid (please see above)

5.8 **Approve Debt Form:** Lori Bibeau shared that this is a practice that has gone on for years; the lending entities have indicated that this action must be taken by boards in order to support this standard practice. **Dorothy Naylor moved to table this until June 26, 2019. Seconded by Vera Frazier.** Discussion: Jonas Eno-Van Fleet asked for clarification - this means the board needs to schedule a meeting for June 26th, rather than holding the date in the case of the budget not passing.

Michael Duane suggested that the board contact other school districts that are in similar situations - what process have they used?

Superintendent Kimball stated that Lori Bibeau is meeting with other Business Managers tomorrow and intends to discuss this with others.

A vote was called. This motion carried unanimously.

5.9 **Approve Leave of Absence Request: Lindy Johnson moved to approve paternal leave of absence for Ted Nathanson. Seconded by Dorothy Naylor, this motion carried unanimously.**

6.0 Future Agenda Items: advisory boards/ committees

7.0 Reflection & Summary of Meeting – Next Steps for Board Members: Ellen Knoedler asked whether the upcoming votes in Calais and Middlesex around properties, will have any impact on action item 5.8? Superintendent Kimball said that they will not.

8.0 Adjournment: The board adjourned by consensus at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Stoudt, Board Recording Secretary



Fwd: WCUUSD

1 message

Lindy Johnson <lindyjvt@gmail.com>
To: kmetivier@u32.org

Wed, Jun 12, 2019 at 7:38 PM

To be added to the record as requested by John Brabant. Bill suggested I send it to you.

Lindy

Begin forwarded message:

From: Flor Diaz Smith <diazsmith.flor@gmail.com>
Date: June 12, 2019 at 6:33:01 PM EDT
To: Lindy Johnson <lindyjvt@gmail.com>
Subject: Fwd: WCUUSD

----- Forwarded message -----

From: john pandolfo <john_pandolfo@yahoo.com>
Date: Wed, Jun 12, 2019 at 4:51 PM
Subject: WCUUSD
To: Flor Diaz Smith <diazsmith.flor@gmail.com>, Lindy Johnson <lindyj@hotmail.com>, Lindy Johnson <ljohnbce@u61.net>

Hi Flor and Lindy,

Hopefully I am misunderstanding, but it sounds like there may be a discussion of the WCUUSD Board tonight regarding whether to hold/maintain membership in the VSBA. If so, please share my input with all board members:

I absolutely urge the WCUUSD board to hold/maintain VSBA membership. As a resident of East Montpelier, and the Superintendent of a newly merging district, I would question why any thought would be given to not holding or maintaining VSBA membership. I can think of no valid reason. I would hope there is not a partisan/biased sentiment against VSBA related to any perceived position on Act 46. VSBA supports school boards, district and school administration, and schools systems in general, in many, many ways. This includes policy support and development (I believe many of the WCSU policies reflect the VSBA models), advocacy on many fronts, training and guidance, as well as in many other areas. WCSU has clearly benefitted from VSBA support in the past, and it would be shortsighted to give up that support. Our school systems, including our boards, benefit from unity!

Respectfully,
John Pandolfo

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