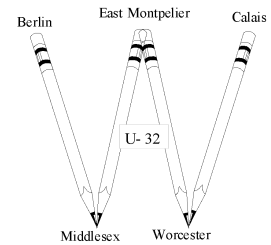


Washington Central Supervisory Union

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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**

6.24.19 at 6:30 PM

U-32 Middle/High School Room 128/131

approved 8-21-19

Present: Chris McVeigh, Scott Thompson, Jonas Eno-Van Fleet, ORCA videographer, Lori Bibeau, Marylynn Strachan, Jaiel Pulskamp, Helena Kehne, Elise Thorsen, Richard Kehne, David Book, Marianne Book, Allen Gilbert, David Lawrence

(no board quorum)

1.0 Receive Questions Regarding Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Budget and Proposed Amendments to Articles of Agreement

Scott Thompson asked those present, are there any people present who don't know how they plan to vote tomorrow night, and if so, would they rather ask questions or look at specific details that are of interest.

One community member asked whether we can talk more specifically about the amendments. Scott Thompson shared on the screen a copy of the actual ballot, and reviewed each article. Chris McVeigh explained that the state had provided default articles of agreement, but allowed for school districts to amend certain articles. The amendments that will be voted upon are proposed amendments.

Allen Gilbert asked for clarification: the voters will not have an opportunity to proposed amendments to the articles? Chris McVeigh stated that he doesn't believe there is anything that prohibits this; it's just the timeline that we are faced with. Allen Gilbert stated that, as voters, we have really been "shoved out into the cold" and that we need to get used to a more representative democracy rather than having a say. Mr. Gilbert stated that he believes the general public does not understand much of the repercussions of these changes. Some discussion followed around Australian ballot.

A gentleman in the audience asked whether we have any inclination about how our representatives feel about this. Brief discussion followed.

The presentation topic switched to the budget, tax impact for each town, and education spending per equalized pupil. Richard Kehne suggested that the unified boards begin to

talk to each other, at least on a regional level, maybe even at the state level. He stated that he believes most of the towns in the state are not going to do well with Act 46.

Lori Bibeau reviewed the budget development process. Richard Kehne stated that, as a community member, he thinks we should be able to continue to consider the budget in a disaggregated way. He stated that the budgets need to maintain specific detail. Allen Gilbert asked if there are any reports that are needed, where per pupil spending amount per school is delineated. Lori Bibeau stated that there are changes coming; this is being defined at the moment by the state; she is not sure what it will look like in the end. Jonas Eno-Van Fleet stated that, at the budget development stage: *finance committee, local school board review and community comments*, this is where it will be important to have community input.

Discussion followed around expense categories as percentages of the total budget.

Richard Kehne stated that as much as the topic of “equity” is purported, he does not see that this budget reflects equity and there is no way he can support this budget. That being said, he thanked the board for the work and the effort to engage the community and operate as transparently as possible. He stated that we are faced with a “no win” situation.

Allen Gilbert noted that only six board members are present and that he believes the board will need to come together as a whole to have these difficult conversations.

The forum ended at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Stoudt, Board Recording Secretary