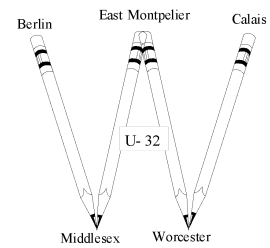


Washington Central Supervisory Union

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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

Meeting - **Approved Minutes**

6.26.19 at 6:30 PM

U-32 Middle/High School, Room 128/131

Approved 8-21-19

Board Members Present: Scott Thompson, Marylynn Strachan, Flor Diaz Smith, Jonas Eno-Van Fleet, George Gross, Vera Frazier, Jaeil Pulskamp, Chris McVeigh

Administrators Present: 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 Deiss, Berlin Principal Aaron Boynton, Calais Principal Cat Fair, U-32 Assistant Principal Jody Emerson, EMES Principal Alicia Lyford, Incoming Doty Principal Gillian Fuqua

Others Present: Matthew DeGroot, Times Argus David Delcore, ORCA videographer

Before the meeting was called to order, the WCSU administrators checked in and shared about the upcoming curriculum camp.

1.0 Call to Order: Scott Thompson called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m.

1.1 Reception of Guests: Scott Thompson welcomed the guests. Scott Thompson commented on the seating arrangements tonight, where the administrators are interspersed with board members around the table.

1.2 Agenda Revisions & Board Comments: Scott Thompson noted that after the budget update, Lori Bibeau will present information related to debt.

1.3 Public Comments & Correspondence: Scott Thompson reviewed that the board had received some communication about the recent solar energy/ net metering presentation, and from Central Vermont Fiber. He also noted that the issue of communication is a topic that requires discussion; however, he feels that this discussion should wait until the new Superintendent is on board.

Flor Diaz Smith stated that she is happy that the budget passed, and she thanked everyone for their efforts and support. She is grateful that school will open as planned in August. Scott Thompson noted that the public should be thanked as well, for showing up and participating in discussion; he stated that this is an example of democracy in action.

2.0 Consent Agenda

2.1 Approve Minutes of 6.12.19 and 6.18.19: **Vera Frazier moved to approve the minutes of June 12th and June 18th. Seconded by Flor Diaz Smith. This motion carried unanimously.**

2.2 Approve Board Orders: none

3.0 Discussion Agenda

3.1 Budget Update: Lori Bibeau noted that the budget passed in all towns except one, and all of the amendments passed. She noted that on June 12th the board had authorized a RAN: Revenue Anticipation Note; she will need board members' signatures tonight. Lori Bibeau stated that she is prepared on Monday to move money from the old entities into the new entities, as created by this new governance structure. She stated that the administrative assistants at each school have been amazing. Next week, the office will test the new payroll process, and she expects everything to go smoothly.

Lori Bibeau stated that she and Bill Kimball have written to Community Bank, NA and Vermont Municipal Bond Bank, to request an extension, for the execution of any documents or board actions regarding the assumption of debt, until the supreme court rules on the matter of the Act 46 lawsuit.

3.2 Meeting Protocols

3.2.1 Advisory Boards/Committees: Scott Thompson spoke to the issue of advisory boards and committees. He suggested an idea of a "troika," consisting of previous chair, current chair, and future chair. For example, he suggested next year, Flor Diaz Smith become chair, Jonas Eno-Van Fleet vice chair, and he, clerk; this would comprise the troika.

Scott Thompson shared the idea of having a budget development advisory committee, consisting of the board's local town representative as well as town community members, with the idea of creating a sort of expansion of responsibilities as well as a flow and transition of community members involved in board activity.

Jonas Eno- Van Fleet spoke about the desire to take advantage of collective knowledge as well as to maintain some semblance of local control, which has been an ongoing concern among communities.

Flor Diaz Smith suggested that the board use time at the retreat to flesh out some of these issues, including the idea of local advisory councils. George Gross stated that he would like to discuss more about selection of members for these councils. Board members discussed these topics. Steven Dellinger-Pate stated that there are a lot of models out there; he suggested that the board consider some that are already created. He also warned against an "advocacy" model where we are pitting towns against towns (board members against board members.)

Administrators and board members discussed the desire to thoughtfully move forward. Kelly Bushey noted that, regarding the need to move forward thoughtfully, one of the hardest topics, as well as one of the most urgent (time-wise) topics will be budget development. She noted that it's a brand new board but it is faced with a difficult task right away.

3.3 Retreat: Board members considered July 15th or 16th for a retreat date, for the board and the new superintendent. The second retreat with leadership team is scheduled for August 1st at noon (at U-32). Conclusion: Monday July 15th 5 - 8 p.m. at North Branch Nature Center. (Flor Diaz Smith will confirm the location.)

3.4 Communication: Jonas Eno-Van Fleet stated that Front Porch Forum is a difficult form for communication, because people in one town can't see posts from other towns. Scott Thompson noted that the board will discuss the topic of communication with Debra Taylor, the incoming superintendent. Vera Frazier stated that it is important to post things consistently. She would like to be sure that all of the meeting information is posted on every individual school website, as well as the WCSU website.

3.5 VSBA Resolutions: Flor Diaz Smith stated that the resolutions are due by July 15th. She suggested providing guidance to VSBA on creating resolutions regarding the following issues: property tax burden, and meeting goals of Act 46 (cost efficiencies, etc). She suggested that, even if the board does not decide to join VSBA in September, it would be worthwhile to provide input toward VSBA's development of resolutions. Chris McVeigh stated that we should suggest that they address the debt issues that arise from Act 46. Board members discussed the possibility of drafting resolutions for the board to consider on July 15th, when they gather for the retreat. Scott Thompson suggested that board members send ideas for resolutions to Flor Diaz Smith. She will circulate to board members in advance of the July 15th meeting (for perusal; not for ongoing discussion, which will wait until the board meets on July 15th).

4.0 Action Agenda

4.1 Approve Recommended Policies: Chris McVeigh asked for clarification around the Search and Seizure policy. He spoke about the topic of "reasonable suspicion;" he suggested removing "desks and lockers" from item A. Jonas Eno- Van Fleet suggested the following change to the verbiage in part C: "pursuant to the policy outlined in section 1, subsection B, they may also be searched." Jonas Eno- Van Fleet moved to amend the policy to make the change (as noted above). Seconded by Chris McVeigh, this motion carried unanimously.

Flor Diaz Smith moved to approve the recommended policies, with noted amendment. Seconded by Vera Frazier, this motion carried unanimously.

4.2 Authorize Chair to Sign Letter of Agreement for Superintendent of Record: Scott Thompson noted that the board will need to go into Executive Session for this item. Scott Thompson asked whether any administrators care to join this Executive Session. Flor Diaz Smith suggested inviting Kelly Bushey and Jen Miller-Arsenault to join. At 8:15 p.m., Chris McVeigh moved to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a personnel issue, and to invite Kelly Bushey and Jen Miller-Arsenault. Seconded by George Gross, this motion carried unanimously.

Jaiel Pulskamp moved to come out of executive session at 8:47 p.m. Seconded by MaryLynne Strachan; motion carried unanimously.

Flor Diaz Smith moved to approve the chair to sign the letter of agreement for the superintendent of record, Chris McVeigh seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

4.3 Approve Resolution to VSBA: to be addressed on July 15th.

5.0 Future Agenda Items

6.0 Summary of Meeting – Next Steps for Board Members

Scott Thompson asked board members to get out there and talk to people, and that we can meet up and talk to each other. We just can't constitute a quorum without having warned a meeting, as per open meeting law.

7.0 Adjournment

Meeting adjourned by consensus at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Stoudt, Board Recording Secretary