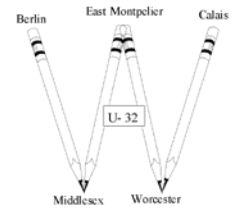


Washington Central Unified Union School District

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

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Bryan Olkowski
Superintendent



WCUUSD Finance Committee Meeting Minutes Approved 3.16.21 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.

Committee Members Present: Bryan Olkowski, Superintendent; Lori Bibeau, Business Administrator; Jim Garrity, Interim Director of Technology; Flor Diaz-Smith, Scott Thompson, Kari Bradley

- 1. Call to Order:** Bryan Olkowski called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.
- 2. Elect Chair of Committee:** Scott Thompson nominated Flor Diaz Smith as acting Chair pending reconstitution of the Finance Committee. Kari Bradley seconded. The vote passed **unanimously**. Scott Thompson suggested that reconstitution of the committee include one member from each town on these committees.
- 3. Approve Minutes of 2.16.21:** Scott Thompson motioned to approve the minutes. Kari Bradley seconded the motion. The motion passed **unanimously**.
- 4. Discussion/Action**

Agenda Revision:

Kari went over the parameters that were set this year and the committee discussed how well they worked:

1. Establish a budget of less than 3% net impact on taxes.
2. Find ways to pay for the three strategic initiatives.
3. Prepare a list of contingencies.
4. Establish a budget that is less than the excess spending.
5. Establish a budget that will work towards MTSS in all schools.

The committee discussed ideas of what they could look at in the future when preparing the budget. Some of the ideas included: looking at declining student enrollment and cost per pupil, Administrative comparable, looking at early retirement in the future, diversifying the workforce, centralizing the HR function and curriculum development.

- 4.1. Technology bid:** Jim Garrity explained the need for new storage and virtualization equipment. There was a previous budget of 90k for storage and server equipment. This would help in having some redundancy with our equipment. There were three bids received from the following vendors: Echo star, Cambridge Computers and Hytec. Cambridge Computer is recommended as the low bidder. Jim is asking to approve the bid from Cambridge Computers for 189,449.29. There is availability in the budget. **Scott motioned to recommend the bid to the Board that approve for Cambridge Computers. Kari Bradley seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

- 4.2. Capital Timeline Review:** Lori explained that the timeline does not mirror the Board meeting schedule. This does not align with being able to approve projects that are happening and it may be difficult to hire contractors.
- 4.3. Authorization for Finance Committee to Award Bids:** Scott Thompson made a motion to recommend the Finance Committee authorize bids for the remainder of the 20-21 school year. Kari Bradley seconded. The motion passed unanimously
- 4.4. Electric Vehicle Charger at Rumney:** Jim advised that we have spoken with the Middlesex Select Board. They were interested in seeing the charger remain. Jim recommended that it be disconnected from the Charge point software and remain on site. When it no longer works then remove it. Some discussion around security measures took place. The last time the charger was used was 2018. Jim advised there would be expenses to remove the charger. Jim withdrew his recommendation until the next finance committee meeting when he can get more information surrounding security measures. He will research the costs to compare how much it would be to remove the charger vs. put in security measures.
- 4.5. House Ways and Means Testimony:** Lori provided testimony to the House Ways and Means Committee regarding H.31. In H.31 the merger benefits did not affect the districts that involuntary merged, it affected all districts. This is expected to pass in the House Ways and Means Committee. WCUUSD should see the continuation of merger support grants (Small schools grant). They are looking at how it will be recalculated.
- 4.6. Statewide financial Software Update:** In 2018, the state required the school districts to use a new software called E- Finance. This software is not working well. The legislature put in a bill to pause and look at the users. WCUUSD was supposed to go live on this in 2022. They are recommending that there be an option to defer. Lori asked for permission to request the last possible group to use this software, as there are too many issues. 300k was set aside for this conversion.

Flor advised that the Business Administrator search would be reopened.

5. Next Meeting Date and Future Agenda Items:

Time for next meetings 8:30-9:30

- April 20, 2021
- May 18, 2021
- June 15, 2021
- Energy Project Consultant
- Net Metering Proposal

6. Adjourn: Flor Diaz Smith adjourned the meeting at 9:40