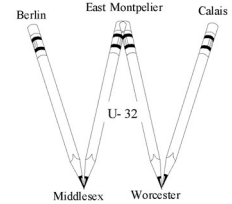


Washington Central Unified Union School District

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 7.15.20 5:00 - 6:00 pm

Via Video Conference*

Board Members Present: Flor Diaz-Smith, Scott Thompson, Kari Bradley, Chris McVeigh, and Lindy Johnson

Administrators Present: Bryan Olkowski, Lori Bibeau, Kelly Bushey, Steven Dellinger, Aaron Boynton, Jennifer Miller-Arsenault, Amy Molina, and Keith MacMartin

Others Present: Corrine Stridsberg

1. Call to Order – **Ms. Diaz-Smith called the meeting to order at 5:01 pm.**
2. Approve Minutes of 6.17.20 – **Mr. Thompson motioned to approve the minutes of 6.17.20. Mr. Bradley seconded. Motion carried.**
3. Budget (Discussion)
 - 3.1 Review FY 20 Financial Report - Ms. Bibeau informed the attendees that the books were closed on July 3rd. She stated she has conferred with auditors about CARES funds and will be applying for \$417,830.
 - 3.2 Discuss Board to authorize the Finance Committee to award bids over \$15,000 for COVID-19 items – Mr. Olkowski stated that it would be helpful for the finance committee to have the ability to award bids over \$15,000 in order to be able to move forward with preparing the schools for the school year. Mr. Bradley asked if the two weeks between full board meetings was not an adequate amount of time to award bids. Mr. Olkowski stated that many items would need to be awarded as soon as possible because the time between delivery, installation, and the beginning of school requires quick decisions. The committee members were agreeable to approving bids between \$15,000 and \$100,000.
 - 3.3 Discuss School Reopening COVID-19 Expense – Mr. Olkowski noted that they're trying to be good stewards of taxpayer money while following state guidelines. Ms. Bibeau stated that they're asking for \$300,000 for

items such as hand sanitizer, masks, gloves, thermometers, software, and equipment knowing that if CARES reimbursement funding doesn't come through they will have to find funding sources. The concern is that they don't yet have clear direction on what qualifies for the funding. The committee agreed that they should purchase what is needed for reopening.

- 3.4 Discuss Central Office Renovations – Mr. Olkowski met with Bill Ford and the architect to make sure there's a safe area when arriving at the central office. There is an estimate between \$8,000 and \$11,000 based on calculations from Black River. Ms. Bibeau mentioned that it is less expensive to make a permanent wall than it is to make a temporary wall, and that there is \$117,000 in a capital fund for the central office. Mr. Bradley and Ms. Diaz-Smith stated that they support what is needed to be safe as possible, but would like more information on what equivalents are being done in the schools.
- 3.5 Discuss Hiring a Retreat Facilitator – Mr. Olkowski told the committee that the retreat facilitator will cost \$2,000 plus travel, lodging, and food. Committee members stated that they feel comfortable with recommending this to the board.
- 3.6 Discuss Solar Net Metering – Mr. Olkowski reported that they reached out for solar net metering and asked if the company would be willing to do a two year deal, but they are only interested in a 20 year deal. Mr. Olkowski does not recommend moving forward with this project based on the length of the deal requested. Ms. Bibeau stated that they do not have to make a decision right away, but that the company would like a decision no later than August 15th. Mr. Thompson told the committee about some background research done by Dorothy and stated she was opposed because the Washington Electric Cooperative is already 100% renewable.
- 3.7 Discuss Berlin Driveway Reconstruction and Paving Project – Ms. Bibeau stated that three vendors submitted competitive bids on the project. She noted that it is recommended for the bid to be awarded to Avery Excavation for a cost of \$477,518. A second request would be to approve \$126,000 from the district fund because the project cost exceeds the estimated original expense, and they would need extra funds set aside if the project cost exceeds the current bid. Mr. Thompson shared that Dorothy expressed disinterest in this project because of possible negative perception of doing this work when funds are needed to re-open schools. The committee spoke with Mr. Boynton about safety concerns of the driveway and dirt parking lot, both current and future. Mr. McVeigh asked for additional details about why the bid was higher than anticipated, and Ms. Bibeau broke down the information on the higher expense due to lighting and the extra funds in case of needing to exceed the bid. They noted that speaking to someone with Efficiency Vermont

about the lighting and possible grants might be one way to reduce the cost. Mr. McVeigh, Mr. Bradley, and Ms. Diaz-Smith stated that they support the project, and Mr. Thompson stated he is 80% in support of the project with concerns of spending money on non-COVID related items at this time.

4. Next Meeting Date and Future Agenda Items – July 29th, 2020
 - Energy Project Consultant (Fall) – Ms. Diaz-Smith noted that it would be helpful in a future meeting to figure out the ultimate goal, and how to set the Energy Project Consultant up for success.
5. Adjourn – **Meeting adjourned at 5:53 pm.**

Respectfully Submitted,
Tiffany S. Miller, Board Recording Secretary

***Open Meeting Law temporary changes as of 3/30/20:**

Boards are not required to designate a physical meeting location. Board members and staff are not required to be present at a designated meeting location.

Our building will not be open for meetings. All are welcome to attend virtually.