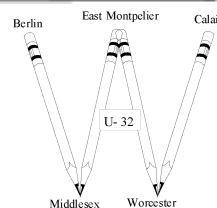


Washington Central Unified Union School District

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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Debra Taylor, Ph.D.
Interim Superintendent



WCUUSD Superintendent Search Committee PUBLIC FORUM Notes 12.11.19, 5:30PM

U-32 Middle/High School, Room 128/131 930 Gallison Hill Rd, Montpelier

Present: Mark Andrews, Scott Thompson, Flor Diaz Smith, Superintendent Debra Taylor, Keith MacMartin, Allison Mindel, David Lawrence, Anthony Pollina, Deb Wolf, Virginia Burley, Jonas Eno-Van Fleet, Carla Messier, Steven Dellinger-Pate, Kelly MacMartin, Erica Zimmerman, Lindy Johnson, Michael Duane

1. Call to Order: Deb Wolf thanked everyone for their attendance. Scott Thompson called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m. He welcomed those present and previewed the purpose of the discussion tonight, to engage the public in the superintendent search process. He introduced Mark Andrews.
2. Public Forum Regarding WCUUSD Superintendent Search: Mark Andrews explained the process - he shared that five questions posted for input from all. He invited brainstorming:

What do you think the role of the superintendent is or should be?

educational leadership

vision

encourage academic excellence

promote equity (between the schools and within the schools)

liaison between community and the school system

need good management skills (people)

confident delegator of responsibilities

budgeting & financial skills

provide accountability of the school district to/ for the community

to communicate with the community

encourage responsible risk taking

champion for the most vulnerable in our communities

faculty development and support

physical plant/ capital

research base - effective math and literacy instruction (STEM)

What do you believe is the direction that you think the superintendent must lead WCUUSD in?

build equity as a nonnegotiable goal

question about equity: what does equity mean to you? equality of opportunity? equality of outcome? meeting kids where they are at, understanding what each child needs is different rather than starting all in the same place

build common understanding across all districts, all schools, for all communities

and understanding of equity as the direction that the WCUUSD needs to move in

equity: ensuring equal access to education to all students/ protecting that access

high achievement and opportunity for all students

whole child education

comprehensive evaluation of where inequities lie and a comprehensive plan to address them in a sustained way

**implements response to intervention across the district/ MTSS

follow special education law

promote the direction of connecting students with their "place" and civic engagement (e.g. farm to school/ service learning)

Mark Andrew asked, regarding this question - is it short term? is it long term? is it mid-term?

What is the short term priority? What needs to happen tomorrow? (short term priorities designated by ***)

**transparency/ openness in the communication process (more regular communication)

**welcome parent and community involvement

What are the most important attributes the superintendent must possess?

sense of humor

likes interacting with children/ students

accessible to children/ students

professional expertise

philomath/ life long learner

sense of calm

belief in research/ science

belief in the potential of each child

good boundaries (flexible boundaries) - also openness

transparent integrity

"people person" (not necessarily an extrovert)

approachable

optimist

emotional security

somebody that wants to be the "host/ convener," not the "hero"

humbly self-confident

can admit and rectify mistakes

supportive toward both staff and students

interested in difference and diversity
feminist

What are the most important skills and experiences for the superintendent?

effective communicator
experience with trauma informed institutions/ trauma informed teaching
supervision
coaching/ professional development
life long learner
educational leadership related to the direction of our community (as delineated earlier)
experience in seeing/ recognizing what it looks like (above)
experience with newly merged districts
teaching experience
experience as superintendent
experience with winter
understanding rural education/ valuing small schools/ valuing small & rural schools
fiscal competency

What level of engagement should the superintendent be committed to, both in your area of work and the broader professional community - what should it look like?

broader community engagement with the community as a whole - not only the parents whose children attend the schools
example of school start time committee - follow up communication was lacking - this is needed
motivated to help meet the opportunities around us
engage with economic actors in our region - both short term and long term
engage with Central Vermont Career Center
engagement with surrounding districts (outside of WCUUSD)

Mark Andrew invited any to provide more input, or follow up input, to any members of the steering committee.

These lists that have been generated will be sorted into themes and will be incorporated into the lists that have been generated to date by the steering committee.

Scott Thompson will make this compilation available online and will notify the communities via Front Porch Forum that they are available.

Flor Diaz Smith invited anyone to provide their names if they are interested in serving on the hiring committee.

3. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Stoudt