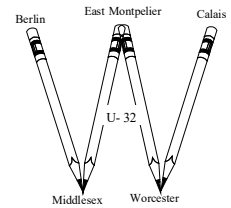


Washington Central Unified Union School District

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

1130 Gallison Hill Road
Montpelier, VT 05602
Phone (802) 229-0553
Fax (802) 229-2761

Meagan Roy Ed.D.
Superintendent



Washington Central Unified Union School District School Board Meeting

U-32

(In Person & Virtual Option)

930 Gallison Hill Rd. Montpelier, VT

3.15.23 6:15-9:15 PM

Board Members Present: Diane Nichols-Fleming, Ursula Stanley, Lindy Johnson, Daniel Keeney, Mckalyn Leclerc, Kari Bradley, Flor Diaz Smith, Maggie Weiss, Ursula Stanley, Jonas Eno-Van Fleet, Natasha Eckart, Eric Andersen, Joshua Sevits, Jonathan Goddard, Chris McVeigh, **Student Representatives:** Willow Mashkuri and Maya Elliot.

Administrators Present: Superintendent Meagan Roy, Director of Curriculum Instruction & Assessment Jen Miller-Arsenault, Principal Steven Dellinger-Pate, Technology Director Mark Kline, Director of Student Services Kerra Holden, Business Manager Susanne Gann, District Operations Manager Michelle Ksepka

Others: ORCA Media, David Delcore, Michael Duane, David Lawrence

1. Call to Order: Superintendent Roy called the meeting to order at 6:22 p.m.

2. Board Reorganization:

2.1. Election of Officers: Jonas Eno-Van Fleet nominated Flor Diaz Smith for Board Chair. Seconded by Chris McVeigh. Jonas Eno- Van Fleet noted that Flor has led the board very well and he looks forward to voting for her. **This motion carried unanimously.** At this point Flor Diaz Smith chaired the meeting. Flor Diaz Smith thanked the board and stated that she is looking forward to the work ahead. **Jonas Eno-Van Fleet nominated Kari Bradley for Board Vice Chair. Seconded by Daniel Keeney.** Lindy Johnson stated that Kari has done a great job in his role and that he and Flor work well together. **This motion carried unanimously. Lindy Johnson nominated Jonas Eno-Van Fleet for Board Clerk. Seconded by Ursula Stanley.** The board thanked Jonas for his work as clerk. **This motion carried unanimously.**

2.2. Committee Appointments:

Steering Committee: The board officers serve on the Steering Committee; they represent the towns of East Montpelier, Calais and Worcester. **For Middlesex, Chris McVeigh nominated Ursula Stanley. Seconded by Jonas Eno-Van Fleet. For Berlin, Ursula Stanley nominated Diane Nichols-Fleming. Seconded by Jonas Eno-Van Fleet. These motions carried unanimously.**

Policy Committee: Currently the committee is comprised of the following board members: Chris McVeigh, Jonathan Goddard, Natasha Eckart. **Jonas Eno-Van Fleet nominated the current slate. Seconded by Ursula Stanley, this motion carried unanimously.**

Negotiations: Currently the committee is comprised of the following board members: Jonas Eno-Van Fleet, Josh Sevits, Diane Nichols-Fleming, Chris McVeigh. **Jonas Eno-Van Fleet nominated: Josh Sevits, Diane Nichols-Fleming, Chris McVeigh. Seconded by Lindy Johnson. Diane Nichols-Fleming nominated Jonas Eno-Van Fleet. Seconded by Lindy Johnson.** Discussion: Chris stated that Jonas has been doing a masterful job facilitating the meetings and creating working relationships with both, the teachers and the ESP staff. Jonas also noted that he leans heavily on Diane for setting the tone and supporting the work. **Both motions carried unanimously.**

Education Quality: **Jonas Eno-Van Fleet nominated: Ursula Stanley, Mckalyn Leclerc, Diane Nichols-Fleming, Natasha Eckart, Lindy Johnson, Kari Bradley, Daniel Keeney, Flor Diaz Smith. Seconded by Chris McVeigh. This motion carried unanimously.**

Finance Committee: **Natasha Eckart nominated: Josh Sevits, Ursula Stanley, Daniel Keeney, Kari Bradley, Flor Diaz Smith, Eric Andersen. Seconded by Mckalyn Leclerc; this motion carried unanimously.**

2.3. **Appoint Career Center Representative:** **Ursula Stanley nominated Flor Diaz Smith as Career Center Director (board member). Seconded by Jonas Eno-Van Fleet.** Flor noted that she would love for someone else to take over this role next year; she invited board members to attend a meeting this year and consider whether it is something they would like to take on next year. **This motion carried unanimously.**

2.3.1. **Truant Officers:** **Lindy Johnson nominated: Aaron Boynton, Cat Fair, Alicia Lyford, Gillian Fuqua, Karoline May (Elementary School Principals), and JB Hilferty for U-32. Seconded by Mckalyn Leclerc, this motion carried unanimously.**

2.3.2. Board members agreed to board meetings on first and third Wednesday of each month, the first Wednesday being flexible and allowing topics such as community engagement and strategic planning. **Ursula Stanley moved to approve regular board meetings scheduled on first and third Wednesday of each month. Chris McVeigh seconded; this motion carried unanimously.** Board members agreed to continue to operate under

Roberts Rules. Flor Diaz Smith reminded board members that we will continue to follow the board norms that were previously created. **Ursula Stanley moved to adopt the board norms that were created in 2020/21. Seconded by Chris McVeigh, this motion carried unanimously. Jonas Eno-Van Fleet moved that we designate posting places for agendas: district website and each town office. Seconded by Ursula Stanley, this motion carried unanimously. Lindy Johnson moved that we post the minutes on the WCUUSD website. Seconded by Chris McVeigh, this motion carried unanimously. Ursula Stanley moved to designate *Times Argus* as our newspaper of record. Seconded by Mckalyn Leclerc, this motion carried unanimously. Lindy Johnson nominated Ursula Stanley as voting delegate for statewide health insurance. Seconded by Diane Nichols-Fleming, this motion carried unanimously.** Flor Diaz Smith offered the Code of Ethics to board members and asked if they are comfortable, to sign designating their agreement and returning to her at the end of the meeting.

3. Welcome

- 3.1. **Adjustments to the Agenda:** Superintendent Roy noted that we do not have any action related to personnel tonight.
- 3.2. **Reception of Guests:** Flor Diaz Smith welcomed guests.
- 3.3. **Public Comments:** Chris McVeigh shared that the Middlesex community had their traditional pie breakfast this past weekend; he stated that it was great to see kids again and to see the community gather together.

4. Reports to the Board

- 4.1. **Student Report:** Student representatives Willow Mashkuri and Maya Elliot shared winter Sporting events, including the winter sports banquet. College acceptances are being received at this time; it is an exciting time for students. Spring fling: U-32, Hardwood and Montpelier are joining together for this. Maya Elliot shared that students will be visiting the elementary schools to discuss equity, and will be presenting at the education justice coalition. The Musical Pippin is beginning shortly! Discussion about YES: (Year End Study). Lindy Johnson shared that she had heard that the sportsmanship on display at the hockey game was excellent.
- 4.2. **Superintendent/Central Office Leadership Team (COLT) Report:** Superintendent Roy stated that the two highlights from the report are items that are on the agenda tonight: Mascot review and Strategic planning. She invited questions or comments from the board.
- 4.3. **Central Vermont Career Center Report:** Flor Diaz Smith shared that the budget passed; the CVCC Board will reorganize on March 21st.
- 4.4. **VSBA Update:** Flor Diaz Smith had provided a brief written update about VSBA.

5. Board Operations:

5.1. Board Orientation

5.1.1. Board Development: (this was discussed with Phil Gore)

5.1.2. Stipend: Susanne Gann asked board members whether they preferred stipend payment once a year or twice a year. Board members agreed on one payment in February.

5.2. Schedule Board Retreat: Superintendent Roy shared options for board retreat: (1) one longer retreat where the administrators join part of the meeting and the board continues with the rest, or (2) two separate retreats, with the leadership team joining one of them (e.g. in June) and then the board meeting on its own for a retreat in August. Mckalyn Leclerc noted that the June date that was proposed falls on summer solstice. The board tentatively agreed on the date of June 7th for the first board retreat (to invite administrators) and to plan tentatively on the August meeting using doodle poll (for a half day). Melissa Tuller will send around a poll for the August retreat date.

5.3. In-person/Remote meetings: To date the board has held one meeting per month in person and one meeting remote. Some discussion followed, that meetings may become in person as a norm, with a remote option always. In May the board meeting dates will change from May 17 to May 24.

5.4. Reflect on Budget Process-Phil Gore: Phil Gore facilitated discussion with the board around the topic of “Board Process.” He reviewed the board development process as experienced by this board this past year. Discussion followed around community input this past year into the budget development process, and board’s desire to proactively engage the community (early) in the process. Ideas for next year: Diane Nichols-Fleming reminded the board that we received feedback that we need to begin the hard conversations now. We need to be able to flesh out proposed changes early; what we heard was that we should begin these conversations this spring/ summer - we can’t wait until the fall. Kari Bradley stated that we need to have multi-year planning. Phil Gore stated that there is a fiscal cliff coming for every school in Vermont; things are going to be much more difficult in the next two years. Mckalyn Leclerc stated that we need to keep communicating this, and we need to be as specific as we possibly can. Daniel Keeney suggested that we frame parameters around multi-year planning; he feels like we created parameters but they were a little “soft.” Natasha Eckart stated that the budget process can be overwhelming; information overload. We had an opportunity, one of the “benefits” of the pandemic was that we had an opportunity to envision education in a whole new way. She is excited about the work ahead that we have an opportunity and an impetus to re-envision how we want our educational system to look.

5.5. Visioning/Strategic Planning: Superintendent Roy had provided a written overview and the ask for tonight is for the board to appoint two members to the Steering Committee. Currently the thought around composition of the steering committee: 2 student reps, teacher, admin, ESP, 2 board, (making sure all five communities are represented); the

rest should equal community. Diane Nichols-Fleming noted that this strategic planning is high stakes, as the board faces the hard decisions related to budget development, as discussed in recent board meetings. Daniel Keeney stated that he feels that all of the board members should have a finger on the pulse of the Strategic Planning group. Kari Bradley agreed that the board is a key stakeholder group. Superintendent Roy stated that our consultant is very well aware of our current status. Jonas Eno-Van Fleet asked, what is the timeline for coming to a conclusion of what is the structure of our district? How do we make this decision? Superintendent Roy stated that this topic is big enough that it is likely to take two budget cycles. Jonas Eno-Van Fleet stated that he has been under the impression that we will be making decisions about structure as it relates to the budget in this next budget cycle. He thinks that this work needs to happen immediately and needs to happen concurrently with strategic planning. Eric Andersen stated that he feels we began the work of talking about possibilities in the future (re-structure) toward the end of this current budget process. Chris McVeigh stated that local schools mean a lot to our communities, and it will be important to involve the communities in the discussion, and that he agrees we will need to work concurrently on the strategic planning process as well as explicit budget and “restructuring” planning. Superintendent Roy stated that, based on the experience that we have had to date, she does not see how we can do the work to think about change, to consider restructuring, etc., without having this “grounding” process in the work of the strategic planning steering committee, with professional facilitation. Kari Bradley stated that we will need to coalesce the community about the path forward. We as a board will have to be open minded and curious so that people don’t perceive that we have decided the outcome ahead of time. The most important thing is to honor the process and do it right. Mckalyn Leclerc asked for a clear timeline. She is all for taking the time if we have it. Flor Diaz Smith stated that she believes we can do this work concurrently. Jonas Eno-Van Fleet stated that he worries that we will be approaching the community obliquely. Superintendent Roy stated that it is possible, once the board is coalescing around a model, to get to that model over time. There can be steps in between. She stated that it will be important to honor the process and not have a predetermined outcome. Jonas Eno-Van Fleet stated that, at the end of the day, he trusts Superintendent Roy; this is what we hired her to do - to have a vision and to lead us. Josh Sevits suggested that we trust the process; listen to the community; it is not appropriate for us to create the conversation ahead of time. **Chris McVeigh moved to appoint Flor Diaz Smith and Kari Bradley to the steering committee. Jonas Eno-Van Fleet moved to appoint Eric Andersen, as he had expressed interest.** Discussion followed. **Jonas Eno-Van Fleet moved that there be three board members on the Steering Committee. Seconded by Chris McVeigh. This motion carried. Jonas Eno-Van Fleet nominated Kari Bradley, Eric Andersen and Flor Diaz Smith. Seconded by Chris McVeigh; this motion carried.**

- 5.6. Act 152 Non-Discriminatory School Branding:** Superintendent Roy had provided a written update related to the U-32 mascot and a review process that is currently underway.

6. Consent Agenda

- 6.1. Approve Minutes of 2.1.23, 2.15.23, 2.24.23: Jonas Eno-Van Fleet moved to approve the minutes of Feb 1, Feb 15, Feb 24, 2023, as presented. Seconded by Ursula Stanley; this motion carried unanimously.**
- 6.2. Approve Board Orders: Lindy Johnson moved to approve the board order in the total amount \$441,720.08. Seconded by Jonas Eno-Van Fleet, this motion carried unanimously.**

7. Personnel

- 7.1. Approve New Teachers, Resignations, Leave of Absence, and Changes in FTE: None**
- 7.2. Update on Vacancies: No change since the previous report.**

8. Executive Session: Superintendent Evaluation

- 9. Executive Session: Negotiations: At 9:12 p.m., Jonas Eno-Van Fleet moved to enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Negotiations strategy, to include Meagan Roy and Susanne Gann. Seconded by Chris McVeigh, this motion carried unanimously. At 10:14, Jonas Eno-Van Fleet moved to leave Executive Session. Seconded by Chris McVeigh, this motion carried unanimously. During Executive Session the Board discussed Negotiations Strategy.**

10. Future Agenda Items

11. Board Reflection

12. Public Comments

- 13. Adjourn: At 10:14, Jonas Eno-Van Fleet moved to adjourn. Seconded by Eric Andersen, that motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Grace, Board Recording Secretary
and Jonas Eno-Van Fleet, Board Clerk