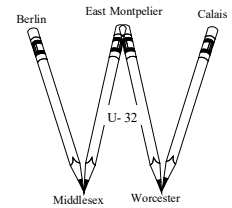


Washington Central Unified Union School District

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 (VIRTUAL ONLY) 2.15.23 5:15-9:15 PM

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

Administrators Present: Superintendent Meagan Roy, Technology Director Mark Kline, Director of Special Services Kerra Holden, Director of Curriculum Assessment & Instruction Jen Miller-Arsenault, Principal Steven Dellinger-Pate, Facilities Director Chris O'Brien, Principal Cat Fair, Principal Alicia Lyford, Business Administrator Susanne Gann, District Operations Manager Michelle Ksepka

Others: Scott Hess, Adam Rosen, Allison Fayle, David Hannigan, Phil Gore, John's iPad, Lisa Grace, ORCA Media, David Lawrence, Michael Duane, David Delcore, Xavier Montalvo, Priscilla Gilbert, Dinah Yessne, Jeff Dean, Ellen Knoedler, Barry Bernstein, Will Baker

- 1. Call to Order: Flor Diaz-Smith called the meeting to order at 5:18 pm.**
- 2. Executive Session: Superintendent Evaluation: At 5:18 Jonas Eno-Van Fleet moved to go into Executive Session for the purpose of Superintendent Evaluation. Seconded by Natasha Eckart Baning, this motion carried unanimously. At 6:10, Lindy Johnson moved to leave Executive Session. Seconded by Jonas Eno-Van Fleet, this motion carried unanimously.** During Executive Session the Board discussed the evaluation of the Superintendent.
- 3. Welcome:** At 6:15, Flor Diaz Smith welcomed those present to the meeting. Flor Diaz Smith expressed condolences to Robin Gannon, teacher at WCUUSD, for the loss in her family, with thanks for all that she has contributed to WCUUSD over the past decade.
 - 3.1. Adjustments to the Agenda:** None
 - 3.2. Reception of Guests:** Flor Diaz Smith welcomed those present and explained that we will have a budget presentation and then invite public comments. She invited anyone who has any questions about the proposed budget to reach out to local board members if they are not present tonight or do not feel comfortable making comments or asking questions tonight.

4. Budget Presentation: Superintendent Roy, Susanne Gann and board members presented a slide deck presentation explaining the proposed budget for FY24.

4.1. Public Comments: Flor Diaz Smith invited questions or comments. Adam Rosen commented about the enrollment numbers; he noted he has seen these trends in the past and he wonders whether other factors are considered such as housing trends. He worries that looking at the downward trend of a graph is not sufficient. He asked whether there will be opportunities to make public comment about topics not related to the budget. Meagan Roy shared how the enrollment trend numbers are created. She noted that the decline has matched the prediction for a very long time; she noted that we do both an internal analysis as well as an external analysis. Bernie Bernstein expressed concern about purchasing and installing a new pellet system in a building, with the enrollment numbers and the downward trend. Michael Duane asked what is the process if one of our districts does not vote in favor of the career center budget? Also what if the career center budget does not pass on its ballot? Flor Diaz Smith stated that this is new territory - the voting system for the career center - she noted that the ballots will be commingled. She stated that she does not have a clear answer; however, the hope is that the budget will pass. Mckalyn Leclerc clarified - do we ask for an absentee ballot for the career center if we are voting by absentee ballot? The answer is "yes." Adam Rosen stated, regarding Clerk of the Works - he shared that there had been a significant error in some sort of project that the candidate for Clerk of the Works was involved. Adam Rosen commented, regarding Strategic Planning - there have been so many studies of strategic plans and community values over the last decades; he feels it is squandering the resources for the strategic planning to not directly address the declining enrollment and the inevitable prospect of consolidation. Flor Diaz Smith spoke about her experience working with the Clerk of the Works and the excellent work he has done over the past several years. Michael Duane asked, if the WCUUSD budget does not pass, what happens to the career center budget? Meagan Roy stated that whatever budget we present will still need to factor in a tuition cost for the career center. To some extent, one budget failing does not affect the other; we would still assume a tech center cost in the next iteration of the budget.

5. Board Operations:

5.1. Board Communication & Outreach Plan: Flor Diaz Smith shared that a letter has been drafted on behalf of the board, for budget outreach. The school newsletters and the district newsletter also included a write up re: budget communication. Kari Bradley reminded the board that the presentation from this meeting is recorded so that is another way to share information about the budget. He invited board members to speak to their community constituents.

5.2. Preparation for Annual Meeting March 6, 2023: Flor Diaz Smith shared that on March 6, the annual meeting presentation will be the same slide deck from tonight. She invited board members to attend if they are not traveling at that time. She does not believe it will be longer than a half hour; there will be an option to attend remotely.

5.3. Debrief with Phil Gore (Please read or review Chapter 8: Superintendent Evaluation):

Phil Gore reviewed the chapter from the book *Improving School Board Effectiveness*, about Superintendent Evaluation. He invited questions or comments from board members. Kari Bradley stated that his response is “what is next for us?” He believes that developing goals from this process would be a good next step. He would like the formative evaluation to carry on throughout the year as we continue to look at data, for example, through Ed Quality Committee. Diane Nichols-Fleming spoke about the concept of it being “an iterative process” - sharing information back and forth and figuring out together how to adjust the process. Phil Gore spoke about the concept of inter-rater validity. Jonas Eno-Van Fleet stated that he feels we have done a great job so far, with Kari Bradley leading the process. Flor Diaz Smith spoke about the idea of calibrating the system and creating more clarity - merging the work from the Ed Quality Committee and supporting the system so that we can have a better partnership. Phil Gore suggested at the conclusion of an evaluation cycle, to ask as a board: how have we supported your success? or how have we interfered with your success? The question is, what does growth look like? Look for evidence of impact, not evidence of activity. Think about what data to look for, what data to ask for, related to impact versus activity. He spoke about the importance of the Superintendent providing a portfolio of evidence to show impact and address the goals that the board has set forth.

6. Reports to the Board

- 6.1. Student Report:** The student representatives, Maya Elliot and Willow Mashkuri, spoke about the recent “shooter hoax,” which showed this importance of the communications and safety measures that are currently in place. They spoke about the effect this had on students’ sense of safety. The student representatives spoke about athletic playoffs which are underway, as well as a student survey for 11th and 12th graders. They spoke about some student activities related to support for topics as varied as sexual consent, and eating disorders. They shared some results from the survey they had recently conducted with students. They stated that many of the responses had to do with the challenge of mental health and the difficulties students are facing right now related to anxiety and mental health. Jonas Eno-Van Fleet asked if the board can see the data from the survey. They will share.
- 6.2. Superintendent/Central Office Leadership Team (COLT) Report:** Superintendent Roy shared some highlights from the written report. She welcomed Holly to the Central Office staff. Principal Dellinger-Pate shared that a new club has been developed at U-32: MOST: Men of Strength. He spoke briefly about this new endeavor.
- 6.3. Principal Report**
- 6.4. Central Vermont Career Center Report:** Flor Diaz Smith shared that communities will be receiving post cards in the mail regarding the career center budget, indicating that a written explanation and report is available upon request.

7. Finance Committee

7.1. Discussion/Action: Flor Diaz Smith thanked Bill Ford and Chris O'Brien who have supported this work.

7.1.1. Award Bid for Calais Pellet Boiler: Ursula Stanley moved to approve awarding the Calais Pellet Boiler Project contract to Froling Energy in an amount not to exceed \$251,900 (this includes the 10% contingency). Seconded by Eric Andersen. Discussion: Mckalyn Leclerc asked for some information, for example, related to the comment earlier: a big project for a building with student enrollment declining; she asked, hypothetically if there is a school closure, what ownership does the board have over the facilities. Flor Diaz Smith explained that it remains important to keep the facilities fully functioning and safe. Susanne Gann noted that she believes it is important that we replace this boiler. Daniel Keeney stated that, even several years down the line, should this hypothesis come to fruition, the facility is more marketable if it has a healthy heating system. **A vote was called and this motion carried unanimously.**

7.1.2. Award Bid for U-32 Parking Lot Project: Ursula Stanley moved to approve awarding the U-32 Parking Lot and Sidewalk Replacement Project contract to J.A. McDonald, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$1,476,217 (this includes the 10% contingency). Seconded by Eric Andersen. Susanne Gann noted that this project is slated for the summer but realistically it may carry over into the fall. **This motion carried unanimously.**

7.1.3. Project Manager/Clerk of the Works Contract: Ursula Stanley moved to authorize the superintendent to sign the contract with WF Project Inspections for his services as Owner Project Manager and Clerk of the Works through 2/9/24, not to exceed \$89,732. Seconded by Jonas Eno-Van Fleet, this motion carried unanimously. Flor Diaz Smith thanked Bill Ford for taking this on again.

8. Consent Agenda

8.1. Approve Minutes of 1.11.23, 1.18.23, 1.31.23, 2.1.23: Jonas Eno-Van Fleet moved to approve the minutes of 1.11.23, 1.18.23, 1.31.23, 2.1.23, as presented. Seconded by Eric Andersen, this motion carried unanimously.

8.2. Approve Board Orders: Lindy Johnson moved to approve the board orders as presented for a total amount of \$796,667.63. Seconded by Daniel Keeney, this motion carried unanimously.

9. Personnel

9.1. Approve New Teachers, Resignations, Leave of Absence, and Changes in FTE: Lindy Johnson moved to accept the request by Noelle Drown to extend the leave of absence and return to work on May 22, 2023. Seconded by Ursula Stanley, this motion carried unanimously.

9.2. Update on Vacancies: Meagan Roy shared that there have been some support staff resignations; we continue to have vacancies, especially at U-32. There are no significant updates at this time. Maggie Weiss shared that Berlin School is fully staffed at this time! This is a celebration.

10. Future Agenda Items

10.1. March 15, 2023 (potential meeting on March 10 if needed)

10.2. Annual Meeting March 6th

11. Board Reflection: Flor Diaz Smith shared the board work plan. The board reorganization will take place on March 15th, following Town Meeting Day, as usual. The next community forum is April 5th. Eric Andersen asked for calendar invite for annual meeting. Daniel Keeney stated that he hopes on the April 5th forum there will be some discussion about what community engagement will look like. Superintendent Roy stated that the first step of Strategic Planning will be planning for the process; we will engage the community about the process itself. Superintendent Roy will share more information with the board as it develops.

12. Public Comments: Flor Diaz Smith invited public comments. Adam Rosen shared that he appreciates the new efficiency of creating one budget under the new consolidated WCUUSD.

13. Executive Session: Student Residency Request

14. Executive Session: Negotiations

15. Executive Session: Superintendent Evaluation

At 7:42, Jonas moved to enter Executive Session for the purposes of a Student Residency Request, Negotiations, and Superintendent Evaluation, to include Superintendent Meagan Roy and Susanne Gann. Seconded by Ursula Stanley, this motion carried unanimously. At 8:55 Jonas Eno-Van Fleet moved to leave Executive Session. Seconded by Lindy Johnson, this motion carried unanimously. During Executive Session the Board discussed a Student Residency Request, Negotiation strategy, and evaluation of the Superintendent. Jonas Eno-Van Fleet moved to accept the Administration's recommendation regarding the Student Residency Request. Seconded by Mckalyn Leclerc, this motion carried unanimously.

16. Adjourn: At 8:56 Jonas Eno-Van Fleet moved to Adjourn. Seconded by Kari Bradley, this motion carried unanimously.

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