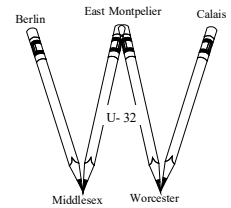


Washington Central Unified Union School District

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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Meagan Roy Ed.D.
Superintendent



Washington Central Unified Union School District School Board Meeting

U-32

(Virtual & IN -PERSON)

930 Gallison Hill Rd. Montpelier, VT

Rm 128/ 131

10.19.22 5:30-9:00 PM

Board Members Present: Diane Nichols-Fleming, Ursula Stanley, Lindy Johnson, Jonas Eno-Van Fleet (online) Chris McVeigh (online), Daniel Keeney, Mckalyn Leclerc, Jonathan Goddard, McKalyn Leclerc, Maggie Weiss, Kari Bradley, Flor Diaz Smith, Natasha Eckart Baning, Student Representatives: Maya Elliot (Senior), Willow Mashkuri (Junior)

Administrators Present: Superintendent Meagan Roy, Jen Miller-Arsenault, Kerra Holden, Aaron Boynton, Susanne Gann, Steven Dellinger-Pate, Michelle Ksepka, Mark Kline

Others Present: ORCA Media, Michael Sherwin, Joshua Sevits & Jericho Parms (and their son), Marc Mihaly

- 1. Call to Order: Flor Diaz Smith called the meeting to order at 5:32.** Flor Diaz Smith introduced Josh Sevits and his family. Board members introduced themselves.
- 2. Middlesex School Board Representative Interviews:** The Board interviewed Josh Sevits for the position of School Board Representative for Middlesex. **At 5:38, Natasha Eckart Baning moved to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel. Seconded by Lindy Johnson, this motion carried unanimously. At 5:48 the board came out of Executive Session. Lindy Johnson moved to appoint Josh Sevits to the position of School Board Representative to WCUUSD for Middlesex. Seconded by Daniel Keeney, this motion carried unanimously.** Board members welcomed Joshua! Flor Diaz Smith reminded him that he will need to go to his Town Clerk to be sworn in so that he can participate fully at the next board meeting.

3. **Welcome:** Flor stated that as she reviewed the board packet for tonight, she was inspired about the work of the board.
 - 3.1. **Adjustments to the Agenda:** no adjustments to the agenda
 - 3.2. **Reception of Guests**
 - 3.3. **Public Comments:** none

4. **Board Learning/Presentation: *Board Budget Training*:** Susanne Gann provided a slide deck presentation to the board. Questions followed: Kari Bradley asked, what is the statewide excess spending penalty threshold? approximately \$19K? Susanne Gann shared that in December: excess spending threshold becomes known; in January: CLA information becomes known. The board discussed with Susanne Gann some of the timelines involved with budget development. Some discussion followed about whether meetings should be called “budget forums” or “informational meetings,” etc. Kari Bradley stated that he believes the November 2nd meeting will be the best opportunity to invite the public to a public forum to inform the budget planning. Kari reviewed the role of the board - the staff does most of the work; we as the board get to guide the process: setting parameters, stating priorities, and providing feedback to the budget drafts. The hope is to adopt it in January, and then it becomes “ours” to explain to the community. Daniel Keeney asked how the budget creation calendar tracks with contract negotiations. Superintendent Roy stated that we go into budget planning with “assumptions” about salary negotiations and then adjust accordingly as needed. Some discussion followed around ways to share the budget information flyer. Natasha Eckart Baning asked whether we have a mechanism for students to provide input into the budget development. Daniel Keeney shared concern around limited opportunities for public input (e.g. having one budget forum in November and then sharing budget draft toward the end of December.) Meagan Roy shared that the questions that will be used at the budget forum small group work will also be shared electronically so that people can engage in the process without attending the forum. Some discussion followed around providing information in FPF and providing a link to the questions/survey as noted above. Kari Bradley suggested creating very short (1 minute) budget informational videos to share electronically. He wondered if there is a general email that people can send questions, comments, input to. Daniel Keeney suggested, for example, after December 21st, is there an opportunity for the community to react to the second draft of the budget. Flor Diaz Smith stated that we are not necessarily asking for input around dollar amounts but looking more for input about priorities. Superintendent Roy explained that the timeline for the budget to be ready for warning for Town Meeting Day creates challenges. Ursula Stanley shared from last year - in December, the leadership team had shared the draft of the budget and reviewed the input that had been received at the November forum. She thought it went really well and that it honored the feedback from the community. Maggie Weiss stated that outdoor learning around agriculture, farm-to-table, school gardens, etc., has been a priority that has been shared by the community with the board in the past.

5. **Reports to the Board:**
 - 5.1. **Student Report:** Maya Elliot shared that we are working with Mosaic Vermont around the topic of Sexual Violence Prevention. Last week was PSAT time. ACT testing and SAT testing are underway, and seniors are beginning to get ready for college applications.

Willow shared some of the sporting events in the past month. She stated that there had been an unexpected half day last week due to staffing shortages. Maya Elliot shared that theater season is beginning - a middle school show as well as a high school show. Maya Elliot stated that student groups here are working with student groups at Randolph to support them during this time with a recent event re: transphobia.

- 5.2. Superintendent/COLT Report:** Superintendent Roy shared that the Central Office Leadership Team has worked on an updated format for board reports. Equity Book Group: Jen Miller Arsenault shared that the second group met today for 60 minutes via google meet. She noted that the group overall is going well and will meet six times over the course of the year. Daniel Keeney asked for the reading list to be shared with the board.
- 5.3. Principal Report:** Superintendent Roy invited feedback from the board about the new format for this written report. Board members liked that the format aligns with the three stated priorities and that each principal's voice is heard in the document.
- 5.4. Central Vermont Career Center Report:** Flor Diaz Smith had shared a memo providing an update from CVCC.

6. Board Operations:

- 6.1. Berlin Quitclaim Deed:** Superintendent Roy had provided information for the board to consider regarding the Berlin Quitclaim Deed. Tom Badowski answered some of the questions of the board around the map and around the language in the quitclaim deed. Jonas Eno-Van Fleet stated that he doesn't like the fact that the general language allows for future exchanges of land. Jonathan Goddard stated that he has never been in favor of the district giving land to the town. He would like the document to indicate that the district is not in jeopardy of losing any more of its acreage. **Kari Bradley moved to approve the request to use the deed with the property adjustment language, to allow the town to exchange a piece of this property to a neighboring land owner, and request that this is reviewed by legal counsel to ensure that we are fully protected. Seconded by Ursula Stanley, this motion carried. Jonathan Goddard abstained from this vote.** Tom Badowski thanked the board.
- 6.2. VSBA Resolutions:** Flor Diaz Smith shared the proposed VSBA resolutions, as included in the board packet. **Kari Bradley moved to approve Resolution 3. Seconded by Ursula Stanley, this motion carried unanimously.** Kari Bradley expressed concerns with Resolution 4. **Diane Nichols-Fleming moved to approve Resolution 4. Seconded by Natasha Eckart Baning.** Discussion: Ursula Stanley will share Kari Bradley's concerns at the meeting. He had indicated that sometimes in a small state with rural districts, we may want to preserve the right to think creatively around independent schools. Diane Nichols-Fleming and Flor Diaz Smith indicated their support for equal access to public education and for the expectation that everyone plays by the same rules when accessing education funding. Some discussion followed around the purpose of boards considering and taking action to approve resolutions. **This motion carried.** Kari Bradley abstained from this

vote. **Lindy Johnson moved to approve Resolution 5. Seconded by Diane Nichols Fleming.** Maggie Weiss asked for clarification around the verbiage about “input” - how can input be provided when standards have already been adopted? Flor Diaz Smith noted that the purpose of the resolution is to assure that boards have a voice (for example in the weighted student initiative). Daniel Keeney stated that he thinks the language “adopted by rule” is significant to answer her question. **This motion carried unanimously. Kari Bradley moved to approve Resolution 6. Seconded by Jonas Eno-Van Fleet. This motion carried unanimously.** Jonathan Goddard stated that he has been advocating for universal free meals for years and he is glad that the state is now seeing this as a critical need. Flor Diaz Smith provided an overview of the 2022-23 VSBA Bylaws. Kari Bradley stated that on page 1 the goals did not seem specific but that the detailed information about micromanaging budget development confused him. **Kari Bradley moved to support the proposed changes to the Bylaws as presented. Seconded by Ursula Stanley, this motion carried unanimously.**

6.3. Staff Appreciation: Diane Nichols would like to create a google doc that lists staff meetings so that board members can attend as had been discussed. It is our opportunity to express appreciation as well as to ask them to share celebrations and challenges, concerns, etc. She asked board members to let her know if they have other ideas around staff appreciation, and she also wonders how to get feedback from board members after they have attended staff meetings. Lindy Johnson shared some of the recent events around the various schools that have gotten coverage in local papers and on social media. Diane Nichols Fleming stated that she is excited that we are going to begin to rotate our community forums at the various school buildings.

7. Personnel:

7.1. Approve New Teachers, Resignations, Leave of Absence, and Changes in FTE: None

7.2. Update on Vacancies: Superintendent Roy shared that we are getting closer to filling gaps in employment and that there are no new hires tonight. She had shared information with the board about where position vacancies are posted. Lindy Johnson asked whether we receive information about where our new hires heard about position vacancies. Maggie Weiss suggested posting vacancies on: speechpathology.com as well as the monthly ASHA Journal. Superintendent Roy stated that one of the positives of having a shortage of SLPs at the WCUUSD is that we are being more creative with collaboration and sharing resources. Some discussion followed around partnerships with local universities. Natasha Eckart Baning spoke about Grow Your Own in the Northeast Kingdom and the hope that this will spread into other areas.

8. Finance Committee:

8.1. Informational Reports

8.1.1. Monthly Business Office Reflections: Susanne Gann had provided a written document.

8.2. Discussion/Action

- 8.2.1. Approve FY 24 Dental, HRA, Food Service & Community Connections Budget:** Diane Nichols-Fleming moved that the Board direct staff to incorporate the indicated assumptions into the FY 2023-24 Budget Draft #1. Seconded by Lindy Johnson. Discussion: Kari Bradley would be interested in considering the budget draft offering free meals. Maggie Weiss asked a clarifying question about Community Connections. **This motion carried unanimously.**
- 8.2.2. Review and Approve Pre-Qualifications Criteria for 2023 Capital Improvement Projects:** Ursula Stanley moved that the Board establish the recommended prequalification criteria that contractors must meet to be included on a selected list of pre-qualified bidders for the 2023 Mechanical Projects and the 2023 U-32 Parking Lot and Sidewalk Replacement Project. Seconded by Daniel Keeney, this motion carried unanimously.
- 8.2.3. Review and Approve 2023 Dental Premiums:** Lindy Johnson moved that the board set the calendar year 2023 Dental Insurance Premiums as follows: Single Plan \$552; 2-Person Plan \$1,080; Family Plan \$1,512. Seconded by Diane Nichols Fleming, this motion carried. Daniel Keeney abstained.
- 8.2.4. Review and Discuss FY 2023-24 Budget Development Components:**

9. Policy Committee:

- 9.1. Policy Cycle /Work Plan:** Lindy Johnson moved to affirm the proposed draft of the policy review cycle. Seconded by Jonathan Goddard, this motion carried unanimously.

10. Education Quality Committee:

- 10.1. Proposed Ed Quality Goal, Monitoring System Considerations and Meeting**
Notes: Kari Bradley reviewed the document that he had shared encapsulating the work of the Ed Quality Committee. **Kari Bradley moved to adopt the Ed Quality goal as presented. Seconded by Lindy Johnson, this motion carried unanimously.**

11. Consent Agenda

- 11.1. Approve Minutes of 9.21.22, 9.23.22, 10.4.22, 10.5.22:** Lindy Johnson moved to approve the minutes of 9-21-22, 9-23-22, 10-4-22, and 10-5-22. Seconded by Diane Nichols-Fleming. Discussion: Mckalyn Leclerc clarified that she was not present at the September 21st meeting. **This motion carried unanimously with noted edit.**
- 11.2. Approve Board Orders:** Lindy Johnson moved to approve the board orders dated 9-22-22, for a total of \$692,465.45. Seconded by Diane Nichols Fleming, this motion carried unanimously. Board members signed this document.

12. Future Agenda Items

12.1. Board Goals and Calendar: Flor Diaz Smith had shared this document for board members to review. Some discussion followed around the start time of Ed Quality meetings. Flor Diaz Smith asked whether the board was in agreement with having the November 16th meeting fully remote. The board also discussed that it would make sense to have the December 21 meeting be remote as well, being so close to the holiday break. Kari Bradley noted that if we go back to masking as per CDC recommendations, we will go back to remote meetings. Board members agreed that the next in person meeting at U-32 (in January) there will be an offering of food. Board members spoke about inclement weather and the possibility of offering remote board meetings under those circumstances.

13. Board Reflection: Diane Nichols Fleming shared that she enjoyed meeting in person. Mckalyn Leclerc stated that she liked the space versus the cafeteria. Board members welcomed Joshua!

14. Public Comments: none

15. Adjourn: Lindy Johnson moved to adjourn at 8:27. Seconded by Mckalyn Leclerc, this motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Grace, Board Recording Secretary