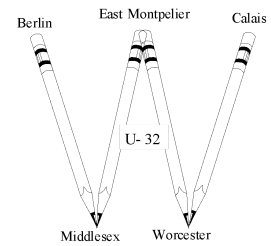


Washington Central Supervisory Union

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William Kimball
Superintendent



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

WCSU Supervisory Union Board Meeting

Approved Minutes

3.27.19 5:30 -7PM

U-32 Cafeteria

approved 6-17-19

Board Members Present:

Berlin: Vera Frazier, Nicolle Ferrier; **Calais:** Rick Kehne, Dorothy Naylor, Chris Cadorette, Katie Reed; **East Montpelier:** Darci Coleman-Graves, Rubin Bennett, Stephen Looke, Lindy Johnson, Flor Diaz Smith; **Middlesex (Rumney):** Marylynne Strachan, Chris McVeigh, Brian Tagliaferro, Katy Chabot; **U-32:** Jonathan Goddard, Charles Merriman, Carl Witke, Kari Bradley, George Gross; **Worcester (Doty):** Chani Waterhouse, Matthew DeGroot, Will Baker

Administrators Present:

Bill Kimball, Superintendent; Kelly Bushey, Director of Student Services; Jen Miller-Arsenault, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; Lori Bibeau, Business Manager; Cat Fair, Calais Principal; Matt Young, Doty Principal; Alicia Lyford, East Montpelier Principal; Aimee Toth, Rumney Principal; Steven Dellinger-Pate, U-32 Principal; Jody Emerson, U-32 Assistant Principal

Others Present:

Ginny Burley, Central Vermont New Directions Coalition; Sherry Lewton, U-32 Social Worker/Mental Health Counselor; Townes DeGroot, U-32 student; Lydia Rice, U-32 student; Helena Kehne, Calais; David Delcore, Times Argus

- 1.0 Call to Order: Superintendent Kimball called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m.
 - 1.1 Reception of Guests: Matthew DeGroot welcomed those present.
 - 1.2 Agenda Revisions & Board Comments: none. Matthew DeGroot indicated that he would like to move to 4.1 before other agenda items, to give the students an opportunity to present at the beginning of the meeting.
 - 1.3 Public Comments and Correspondence: none

2.0 Board Reorganization

- 2.1 Elect a Chairperson: **Flor Diaz Smith nominated Matthew DeGroot for Chairperson. Seconded by Darci Coleman-Graves.** No other nominations were heard. Discussion: Charles Merriman asked for clarification regarding voting membership on this board. Superintendent Kimball clarified. **This motion carried unanimously.**

At this time Matthew DeGroot took over facilitating the meeting.

Matthew DeGroot shared that that the Executive Committee had recommended the following slate:

Vice Chair - Kari Bradley

Clerk - Chris McVeigh

Treasurer - Mary Ormsby

Carl Witke moved to nominate the slate as presented. Seconded by Flor Diaz Smith. No other nominations were heard. The motion carried unanimously.

2.2 Elect a Vice-Chair

2.3 Elect a Clerk

2.4 Appoint a Treasurer

2.5 Establish the Time and Day of Regular Monthly Meetings: **Dorothy Naylor moved to establish: 4th Wednesday, 5:30 p.m., for either Executive Committee or WCSU Supervisory Union Board. Seconded by Chris McVeigh, this motion carried unanimously.**

2.6 **Appoint Statewide Representatives for VEHI & VSBA for Healthcare Negotiations: Chani Waterhouse nominated Flor Diaz Smith. Seconded by Darci Coleman-Graves.** Discussion: Stephen Looke asked, with the uncertainty of board membership in June, is it appropriate to nominate someone at this time? Flor Diaz Smith shared her understanding that a representative is needed; otherwise, the board is giving up its vote during this interim period. Some discussion followed around the negotiation process. **This motion carried unanimously.**

3.0 Consent Agenda

3.1 Approve Minutes of 2.13.19: **Chris McVeigh moved to approve the minutes of February 13, 2019. Seconded by Stephen Looke. Discussion: Chani Waterhouse made a correction for clarification: "having narrowed the scope of work." This motion carried, with noted edit.**

4.0 Discussion Agenda

4.1 Youth Risk Survey Data: U-32 Social Worker, Sherry Lewton, introduced Townes DeGroot and Lydia Rice, U-32 students. They presented to the board about strengths and challenges at U-32 based on results from the Youth Risk Survey. Ginny Burley also presented briefly to the board.

Board members provided questions, comments, or feedback to the presenters.

Matthew DeGroot invited the students to bring issues and ideas to the board at any time. The board thanked the students for attending this evening and sharing their information and perspectives.

4.2 Supervisory Union Board Norms: **Stephen Looke moved to adopt the board norms as presented. Seconded by Flor Diaz Smith.** Discussion: Charles Merriman stated that he believes the role of the board is greater than what is indicated in the norms. **The motion to adopt the norms as written carried unanimously.**

4.3 WCSU 2019-2020 School Year Calendar: Superintendent Kimball had presented a draft calendar; he shared that we are required to be in alignment with the

Central Vermont Career Center. Some discussion followed. Katie Reed asked whether this current school year (2018-2019) is under discussion, in light of snow days and make-up days. Superintendent Kimball stated that he is continuing to discuss and consider the calendar for the end of this current school year.

Chris McVeigh moved to adopt the WCSU 2019-2020 School Year Calendar as drafted. Seconded by Carl Witke, this motion carried unanimously.

4.4 Teacher Negotiations: Chani Waterhouse shared that the negotiation process has used Consensus Based Negotiation Process. She shared some of the negotiated agreements that had come from the process. She reminded board members to take advantage of opportunities to express gratitude and respect to staff members. She noted that the negotiation process is one way that the staff perceives an expression of gratitude and respect; however, she reminded board members to communicate this in other ways as well.

Flor Diaz Smith thanked the negotiations committee members for the hours of effort.

4.5 Act 46 Update: Matthew DeGroot provided a brief update, including some legislative updates. He stated that April 8th is the date for the WCUUSD Organizational Meeting to reconvene. He stated that he believes this is the last opportunity, within a feasible time frame, to put into motion a chain of events to have a budget in place in time for July 1, 2019. Flor Diaz Smith asked whether we will have legal representation at the April 8th meeting. Matthew DeGroot invited comments from board members. He reviewed that while the board can make a motion to invite an attorney to speak, it is up to the community members present to vote whether to allow. Lindy Johnson stated that, given the treatment that legal counsel had received at the previous meeting, she does not think it is appropriate to ask him to return.

Flor Diaz Smith also reminded those present that the Executive Committee had taken action to arrange for childcare at the meeting, to enable families to attend. Superintendent Kimball stated that the meeting will be moved to the U-32 gymnasium.

Matthew DeGroot acknowledged that board members across the supervisory union are not necessarily in agreement in how they wish to proceed and what they wish to transpire at the April 8th meeting.

4.6 Superintendent Transition:

Chris McVeigh moved to accept the resignation of Superintendent Kimball. Seconded by Flor Diaz Smith. Discussion: Matthew DeGroot thanked Superintendent Kimball for his work over the past seven years. This motion carried unanimously.

Matthew DeGroot shared that the Executive Committee had met earlier this evening, and plans to meet tomorrow evening as well.

Charles Merriman had shared a memo earlier in the evening. He indicated that hiring a superintendent, or not, is something that should fall to the future WCUUSD board.

Chris McVeigh stated that the Executive Committee would like to get feedback from the board as a whole, regarding the issue of interim superintendent. Board members expressed support for an interim position. Lindy Johnson stated that while she supports the idea of an interim superintendent, she thinks that the suggestion (from Charles Merriman's memo) to share the responsibility (of superintendent) amongst principals would be a scary proposal for school principals in our supervisory union. She feels that they are already working long hours and undertaking great responsibility.

Stephen Looke moved that the superintendent search process be delegated to the Executive Committee, with specific guidelines from the WCSU Supervisory Union board that the position be an interim position and that we hire a consultant to lead the process. Seconded by Rubin Bennett. Discussion: Charles Merriman asked for clarification of the role of the consultant. Would part of the role be to do a deeper dive to analyze our needs and culture of the community, and whether the current model - with a superintendent - is appropriate? Matthew DeGroot noted that there is a cost factor involved in asking a consultant to take on a larger role. **This motion carried, with one opposed.**

Matthew DeGroot shared his understanding that it is the role of the chairperson to inform the Secretary of Education about a superintendent vacancy and about next steps.

Flor Diaz Smith moved to direct the board chair to direct a letter to the Secretary of Education, about the superintendent vacancy and our intent to initiate a search for superintendent. Seconded by Chris McVeigh. Discussion: Charles Merriman asked whether the motion can be in two parts, the first part not including the “intent to initiate a search.” This friendly amendment was accepted. This amended motion: “to direct the board chair to direct a letter to the Secretary of Education to inform of our superintendent vacancy” carried unanimously.

Brian Tagliaferro moved to direct the board chair to direct a letter to the Secretary of Education indicating our intent to initiate a search for a superintendent. Seconded by Flor Diaz Smith. Discussion: Richard Kehne stated that it might be more appropriate to indicate our intent to plan a path forward, without specifics. We may be going with an interim, and we may be looking at possible paths forward that may or may not include a superintendent. Matthew DeGroot stated that he does not support the path of not having a superintendent. That being said, he does not believe that indicating initiating a search means the search will result in hiring a superintendent.

Chris McVeigh suggested a friendly amendment: “which may result in an interim superintendent.” Brian accepted this amendment. Discussion: Rubin Bennett stated that he does not believe having a discussion this evening about the future configuration of administration is appropriate.

Rubin Bennett moved to strike the friendly amendment from the motion. Flor Diaz Smith seconded this. Rubin Bennett withdrew his motion.

Chris McVeigh withdrew his motion to amend Brian Tagliaferro’s original motion.

Charles Merriman stated that the regulations do not indicate that the board is required to share its intent with the Secretary of Education; merely to inform the Secretary of Education of the vacancy. Charles Merriman stated that the law takes precedence over the rules, and that he sees no reason to keep the Agency of Education apprised of our intent. Some discussion followed. Stephen Looke stated that nothing precludes us from communicating with the Secretary of Education about our intent.

Motion to call the question. Matthew DeGroot asked for a vote in favor to call the question and end debate. The motion to call the question carried with a ¾ majority.

The (previous/ original) motion passed, (with two votes against): Brian Tagliaferro moved to direct the board chair to direct a letter to the Secretary of Education. indicating our intent to initiate a search for a superintendent.

5.0 Reports to the Board: reports to the board were not heard tonight, in light of the late hour.

5.1 Executive Committee

5.2 Financials

5.3 Policy Committee

5.4 VSBA

5.5 Administration

5.6 Negotiations

6.0 Action Agenda

6.1 Approve WCSU 2019-2020 School Year Calendar (this action was taken earlier)

6.2 Authorize the Supervisory Union to Accept all Federal and State Grants; to Administer and to Act as the Representative of all Member School Districts of WCSU: **Carl Witke moved to authorize the Supervisory Union to accept all federal and state grants; to administer and act as the representative of all member school districts of WCSU. Seconded by Chani Waterhouse, this motion carried unanimously.**

6.3 Readopt Supervisory Union Board Norms (this action was taken earlier)

6.4 Accept Resignation (this action was taken earlier)

6.5 Authorize Executive Committee to Initiate Superintendent Search (this action was taken earlier)

7.0 Future Agenda Items

8.0 Board Comments: Matthew DeGroot welcomed new board members.

9.0 Board Communication

10.0 Adjournment: The meeting adjourned by consensus at 7:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Stoudt, Board Recording Secretary

**Next Meeting: WCUUSD Organizational Meeting - April 8, 2019 at U-32 Middle/High School,
930 Gallison Hill Road, Montpelier VT**