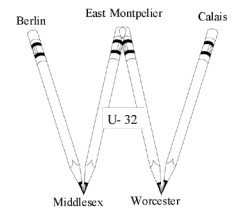


Washington Central Unified Union School District

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 Special School Board Meeting ****Virtual Meeting Only**** **10.18.2023 6:15-8:15 PM**

Board Members: Flor Diaz Smith, Chris McVeigh, Kari Bradley, Maggie Weiss, Mckalyn Leclerc, Ursula Stanley, Daniel Keeney, Zach Sullivan, Amelia Contrada, Natasha Eckart, Jonas Eno-Van Fleet, Jonathan Goddard, Kealy Sloan

Others: Superintendent: Superintendent Meagan Roy, Steven Dellinger-Pate, Jen Miller-Arsenault, Kerra Holden, ORCA Media, David Delcore, Karoline May, David Lawrence, Student representatives: Willow Mashkuri & Linnea Darrow, Mark McDermotts, S. Bador, Michael Sherwin, Susan DeForge, Susanne Gann, Tammy Hoermann, Brian Fischer, Cat Fair, David Hannigan, Dena Cox, Jen Campbell, Celia Guggemos, Beckah Mandel, Alicia Lyford, April B, April Davis, Michael Dindo, Tracy Martin, Maria, Honi Bean Barrett, Jill Drury, Lesley Fitch,

1. Call to Order: Flor Diaz Smith called the meeting to order at 6:16 p.m.

2. Welcome

2.1. Adjustments to the Agenda

2.2. Reception of Guests

2.3. Public Comments: Brian Fischer explained concern around board's proposal to engage an outside agency to provide foodservice rather than the existing foodservice team. He stated that the team has been working since August without a contract. He outlined several concerns in response to the COLT report and to the Finance Committee's report. He encouraged the board to have further conversation with stakeholders before making a decision. Lesley Fitch expressed rejection to any proposal that would replace our current foodservice program with a for-profit foodservice company. Linnea and Willow spoke about the foodservice issue, in support of the current configuration, especially for Brian Fischer.

2.4. Presentation: Board Budget Training: Superintendent Roy presented a slide deck: Overview, History, Process, to provide information about budget development. Superintendent Roy invited questions from board members: Chris McVeigh asked what is the dollar value for staff that will go from ESSER funds to the local budget? (answer: around \$500K) Daniel Keeney asked how this increase compares to last year's "level service" budget draft. Diane Nichols-Fleming expressed appreciation for sharing clear information about the threshold. Mckalyn Leclerc asked for an explanation of the 10% reference: Susanne Gann explained that an over 10% increase (in some configuration) will trigger a tax rate review. Chris McVeigh asked, is the new budget formulation likely that we will approach the threshold that triggers a tax rate review? Superintendent Roy: no we do not think we will approach that. Susanne Gann stated that we do not know yet what this year's long-term weighted enrollment is. Ursula Stanley asked - do we know when we will know the long-term weighted student number? Susanne Gann is hoping we will have this in November but does not know. Daniel Keeney requested that the slide deck be shared electronically.

3. Reports to The Board

3.1. Student Report: Willow and Linnea provided a report of student happenings.

3.2. Superintendent/Central Office Leadership Team (COLT) Report: Superintendent Roy invited questions or feedback from the board. She highlighted a grant application that is underway that potentially has a hiring impact. Chris McVeigh asked whether the personnel action is contingent upon Project Serve. Superintendent Roy stated that she would like for the board to approve the position regardless of this particular grant; the intent is to fund the position via grant monies. Chris McVeigh asked, in response to the public comment about food service, he does not see this on the agenda this evening. Superintendent Roy stated that this is only at the Finance Committee level of discussion/ consideration at this point.

3.3. Principals Report: Superintendent Roy invited questions or feedback from this report.

3.4. Central Vermont Career Center Report: Flor Diaz Smith stated that they continue to work on creating a full-day schedule for next year. All of the advisory committees met this past week; the work of the CVCC board is budget development at this time. Chris McVeigh asked if there is any update on the voting process for the CVCC budget this year. Flor Diaz Smith stated that the voting process will be the same this year as last.

3.5. VSBA Update: Flor Diaz Smith provided an update.

4. Education Quality

4.1. Education Quality Monitoring Report: Ursula Stanley reviewed the October 2023 written report from the Education Quality Committee. She invited questions from board members: what do you notice? Kari Bradley commented that proficiency levels are lower than we would like them to be; however, there is impressive growth demonstrated in the data. Chris McVeigh - appreciates the format of the report, including definitions. He asked whether there is any information available about a connection between the results as shared and practice going forward? Chris McVeigh asked about changes in the evaluation process. Ursula Stanley stated that this will be our baseline data, as we are using new

assessment methods; going forward we will be able to compare future assessment data to this baseline data. She explained that comparing past assessment data with this current data will be a challenge. Jen Miller Arsenault explained that we have made significant changes in proficiency indicators so comparing the past data would be like comparing “apples to oranges.” She shared that the AOE is working to see if there is a way to compare new state assessment to past SBAC data. Kealy Sloan stated that providing context around the data is helpful especially to those who are new to looking at this data. Ursula asked board members: What questions does this bring up? Do you agree with the analysis that the committee made? She asked: What other implications for the full board do you see, besides those that are stated in the report? Kari Bradley - our guidance to the administration about closing the achievement gap, we would like to maintain this area of focus on our radar for a long time going forward as these things take time. Chris McVeigh - can we ask the admin to identify what additional resources they would need in order to achieve our goals? Ursula Stanley stated that the hope is that this will come to the board in November in the budget proposal. Chris McVeigh would like to know from the administration what resources are needed to achieve the stated goals. Kari Bradley- adding the disaggregated (overall) graph equivalents would be helpful, especially in monitoring the second part of the goal. Ursula Stanley expressed appreciation for the input and feedback, and she stated appreciation for the work of the Ed Quality Committee.

5. Finance Committee (Discussion/Action)

- 5.1. FY 25 Capital Improvement Project Budget Update and Approval:** Ursula Stanley moved to authorize the allocation of \$127,502 additional capital reserve funds to the completion of the projects as identified above and approve the District moving forward with the bid document and bidding as necessary. Seconded by Daniel Keeney. This motion carried unanimously.
- 5.2. Award U-32 Exterior Door Replacement Bid:** Chris McVeigh moved to approve awarding the U-32 Exterior Door Replacement Project contract to Acme Glass, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$117,254, to be completed in FY 2023-24. Seconded by Daniel Keeney, this motion carried unanimously.
- 5.3. Review and Approve FY 25 Dental Premiums:** Ursula Stanley moved to set the calendar year 2024 Dental Insurance Premiums as follows: Single Plan \$720; 2-Person Plan \$1,080; Family Plan \$1,680. Seconded by Zach Sullivan. Daniel Keeney explained that due to conflict of interest, he will abstain from this vote. This motion carried, with one abstention.
- 5.4. Update from Configuration Study:** Flor Diaz Smith shared that the committee had met before this meeting. The committee had considered the data included in the finance committee packet, and had used a protocol to facilitate discussion. The committee will move ahead with a brainstorming session at the next meeting. She shared that the meeting went very well, the protocol was facilitated by Jeanie Phillips.

6. **Policy Committee:** Chris McVeigh explained that there is a revision to the Transportation policy, adopting much of the VSBA model policy. He invited questions from board members, for the first reading of this policy. He explained that again the committee recommends adopting the VSBA model language for the C6: Home Study Students policy. He expects both of these policies to be on the agenda at the next meeting for adoption. He invited questions from board members. Daniel Keeney asked, what, if any state laws, apply to us as far as making co-curricular activities available to home-study students. Superintendent Roy explained that we allow home-study students to participate in extracurricular activities; additionally, they may participate in courses at school as long as at least 60% of their curriculum is via home-study.
 - 6.1. **First Reading: C3 Transportation**
 - 6.2. **First Reading: C6 Home Study Students**

7. **Board Operations**

- 7.1. **Board Vacancies:** Flor Diaz Smith shared a chart explaining board vacancies, including vacancies in March. She asked, if any board members are not planning to run for the board in March, she would appreciate advance discussion. Kari Bradley indicated that his seat is up for renewal in March and he does not intend to run. Chris McVeigh stated that his seat is up for renewal as well, and he is undecided at this time about whether he will run.

8. **Consent Agenda**

- 8.1. **Approve Minutes of 10.4.23, 10.11.23: Ursula Stanley moved to approve the minutes of October 4 and October 11, 2023.** Discussion: Zach Sullivan suggested an edit from a board action item, changing wording from “as requested” to “if requested.” **Seconded by Chris McVeigh, this motion with noted change was carried unanimously.**
- 8.2. **Approve Board Orders: Ursula Stanley moved to approve board orders from 9-21-2023 through 10-18-2023 in the amount of \$828,764.34. Seconded by Diane Nichols-Fleming, this motion carried unanimously.**

9. **Personnel**

- 9.1. **Approve New Teachers, Resignations, Leave of Absence, and Changes in FTE: Diane Nichols-Fleming moved to accept a new teacher, Jen Donovan, interventionist, 0.5 FTE for FY24 only. Seconded by Amelia Contrada, this motion carried unanimously. Diane Nichols-Fleming moved to accept the resignation of Mahala Largent and to wish her well. Seconded by Chris McVeigh, this motion carried unanimously.**
- 9.2. **Personnel Request - Grant Funded: Chris McVeigh moved to approve a budget amendment to add a 1.0 BCBA/Behavioral System Specialist position, pending funding. Seconded by Kealy Sloan.** Discussion: Daniel Keeney asked whether this position title is similar in other schools, and do we have vacancies in other schools? Superintendent Roy indicated that because of this grant funding, the position is defined specifically, and there are not vacancies related to this type of position in other buildings. Dan Keeney asked, as this is a grant funded position, is the intent to continue to fund the position? Superintendent Roy stated that 12 months of funding would come from this grant; after that, there would be considerations for other sources of funding. Chris

McVeigh asked for clarification - is this position for direct services or for global support? Superintendent Roy stated that the primary goal for the position will be to wrap around identified students; however, there will be an overall benefit, universally. **This motion carried unanimously.**

10. Future Agenda Items

10.1. 2023-2024 Board Work Plan: Board members reviewed the work plan. The board meeting on November 1st will be at Doty.

11. Board Reflection: Some discussion followed about public comment. Superintendent Roy clarified that public comment at the beginning and end of the agenda is for items that are not on the agenda. It is the board's prerogative to accept public comment during action items at other times in the agenda. Flor Diaz Smith stated that she will add this to the Steering Committee's agenda to discuss.

12. Public Comment: Bekah Mandell stated that it would feel more meaningful for members of the public to be able to speak during board meetings as items come up on the agenda. She hopes that the board will consider this. She asked how the percentage of general funds has changed over the years; this would be useful to understand when considering the budget. She asked do we know how many property tax owners in WCUUSD towns pay based on income; is it different, town to town? Flor Diaz Smith noted that these questions will be recorded and hopefully answered at a future date.

13. Adjourn: Ursula Stanley moved to adjourn at 8:08. Seconded by Zach Sullivan, this motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Grace, Board Recording Secretary