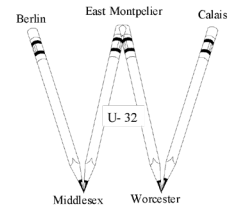


Washington Central Unified Union School District

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 Rm 128/131 930 Gallison Hill Rd. Montpelier, VT 8.23.23 6:15-8:15 PM

Board Members: Flor Diaz Smith, Jonas Eno-Van Fleet, Chris McVeigh, Kari Bradley, Jonathan Goddard, Maggie Weiss, Mckalyn Leclerc, Ursula Stanley, Joshua Sevits, Daniel Keeney

Others: Superintendent Meagan Roy, Steven Dellinger-Pate, Jessica Wills, Mark Kline, Cat Fair, David Delcore, Jen Miller-Arsenault, Kerra Holden, ORCA Media, Chris O'Brien, Susanne Gann, Zach Sullivan, Amelia Contrada, Keely Sloane, Alicia Lyford, Julia, David Hannigan

1. **Call to Order:** Flor Diaz Smith called the meeting to order at 6:17 p.m.
2. **Welcome:** Flor Diaz Smith reviewed the meeting norms and welcomed those present.
 - 2.1. **Adjustments to the Agenda:** Flor Diaz Smith suggested that we move the board member interviews to earlier in the meeting.
 - 2.2. **Reception of Guests**
 - 2.3. **Public Comments:** No public comments tonight.
3. **Reports to the Board**
 - 3.1. **Approaches to Configuration Study:** Superintendent Meghan Roy presented a slide deck: *Approaches to Study Configuration*. Chris McVeigh suggested using community members to facilitate discussion as opposed to hiring an outside consultant. Josh Sevits asked, from the example that was shared, how long the study took. Two years - for the study and for the decision to be made. Daniel Keeney asked whether there is information available regarding

committee membership: What has been successful?

- 3.2. **Superintendent/Central Office Leadership Team (COLT) Report:** Superintendent Roy provided a written report. The substance of the report is around Strategic Planning. She shared the “Thought Exchange” platform which engages the public in the process online.
- 3.3. **Central Vermont Career Center Report:** Flor Diaz Smith provided a brief overview from CVCC.
- 3.4. **Committee Reports:** Flor Diaz Smith asked whether board members are interested in attending the VSBA annual conference in the fall.

4. Finance Committee

- 4.1. **FY 23 Financial Report:** A written report has been provided. Flor Diaz Smith invited questions or comments. Susanne Gann shared that regular and special education is under budget at this time, greatly due to staffing. The administrators are thinking creatively about how to address the vacancies. Superintendent Roy stated that she believes that the administrators are working creatively to meet the needs of students; however, she noted that the board may need to discuss at a later date, how to create a more sustainable solution. Kari Bradley stated that this staffing situation is not likely to change going forward, and this issue will be one to consider during the configuration study.
- 4.2. **FY 24 Capital Improvement Project Updates:** Chris O’Brien shared that the projects that are currently underway are on time and on budget; he hopes that the U-32 parking lot will be completed by the end of next week. Chris O’Brien and Susanne Gann provided a memo to the board providing an overview, including some future planning (e.g. EV charger conduits). McKalyn Leclerc asked whether there is FEMA funding available for a generator at Doty School. Susanne Gann stated that the town of Worcester is applying for grants, and will discuss this further in the future.
- 4.3. **Approve EMES Walk-In Refrigerator/Freezer: Ursula Stanley moved to approve the use of the food service fund balance to pay for a new walk-in refrigerator/freezer and the installation of the equipment for an amount not to exceed \$31,264. Jonas Eno-Van Fleet seconded.** Some discussion followed for clarification around the food service fund balance, which is healthy at this time, largely due to the universal meals program/ federal funding. **This motion carried unanimously.**

5. Policy Committee

- 5.1. **Second Reading and Adoption for Policies: F3 Fire and Emergency Preparedness; F4 Access Control and Visitor Management: Chris McVeigh moved to adopt policies F3 and F4. Seconded by Ursula Stanley, this motion carried unanimously.**

6. Board Operations

- 6.1. **Timing and Approach for Configuration Study:** Superintendent Roy shared that the Finance Committee had offered a possible timeline for this study.

Sept-Dec: Conduct the Study (this will be gathering data)

Jan - Feb: Board reaction/ discussion/ engagement planning

March-May: Community engagement

June: Action

Some discussion followed around community engagement. Chris McVeigh stated that it will be important to seek community engagement before March. Some discussion followed around community engagement in an ongoing way. Jonathan Goddard stated that it is important to encourage and engage the community at every level of the process. Daniel Keeney explained that his understanding is that the board will be collecting information during the “conduct the study” portion; there will not be a lot of board discussion about possibilities going forward at that point when information is being collected. He stated that when the board begins to consider the study (e.g. Jan - Feb), the board will have an open discussion and the community can be engaged at this point. Flor Diaz Smith stated that she expects, in December when the board begins to roll out the budget with the community, we will have some insight to share from the study so that we can begin the discussions engaging the community. Kari Bradley stated that this is designed to get us to a place next summer (summer 2024), to allow this study to influence budget development for the following year. Flor Diaz Smith stated that the Finance Committee meets twice monthly and is open to taking on the role of overseeing the study process. Kari Bradley stated that he does not think we should create a new committee and he agrees that it makes sense to have the Finance Committee take it on. Daniel Keeney stated that the Finance Committee is a small committee, and he believes that more board members should be included in overseeing the study. Maggie Weiss stated that reflecting on the consolidation discussions, she would recommend having a consultant/ facilitator from within our community. Mckalyn Leclerc asked, are there members from each town on the Finance Committee? She feels that at every stage of the process, every town should be represented. (At this time there is not a Worcester board representative on the Finance Committee.) The board discussed that board members are always welcome to attend any of the committee meetings. Daniel Keeney suggested that the board members on the Finance Committee keep board members from their same towns apprised of the work of the study, and seek their input. At the next Finance Committee, they will appoint two new members to join.

- 6.2. Affirm 2023-2024 Board Work Plan: Jonas Eno-Van Fleet moved to affirm the 2023-24 Board Work Plan, as presented. Seconded by Chris McVeigh.** Superintendent Roy reminded the board that we will not be prepared for a community forum on September 6th; this was removed from the work plan. **This motion carried unanimously.**
- 6.3. School Board Vacancies/Interviews:** Keely Sloane, from Berlin, introduced herself to the board and spoke about her desire to serve on the board. Amelia Contrada, from East Montpelier, introduced herself to the board and spoke about her desire to serve on the board. Zach Sullivan, from East Montpelier, introduced himself to the board and spoke about his desire to serve on the board. **Executive Session: At 6:35, Kari Bradley moved to go into the Executive Session for the purpose of deliberating. Seconded by Chris McVeigh, this motion carried unanimously. At 6:42, Chris McVeigh moved to come out of**

Executive Session. Seconded by Kari Bradley, this motion carried unanimously. Ursula Stanley moved to appoint Keely Sloane, from Berlin, Amelia Contrada, from East Montpelier, and Zach Sullivan, from East Montpelier, to the WCUUSD Board. Seconded by Daniel Keeney; this motion carried unanimously. Board members welcomed the new members.

6.4. District Clerk Vacancy: Flor Diaz Smith shared that we continue to seek to fill this vacancy. This has a stipend of \$500. Any interested parties can contact Flor Diaz Smith.

6.5. Appoint Proxy for the VSBIT Annual Meeting: Kari Bradley moved to appoint Superintendent Meagan Roy as proxy for the VSBIT annual meeting. Seconded by Chris McVeigh, this motion carried unanimously.

7. Consent Agenda

7.1. Approve Minutes of 6.21.23: Jonas Eno-Van Fleet moved to approve the minutes of June 21, 2023. Seconded by Ursula Stanley, this motion carried unanimously.

7.2. Approve Board Orders: Kari Bradley moved to approve the board order from July 2023 in the amount of \$1,147,436.29. Seconded by Ursula Stanley, this motion carried unanimously. Kari Bradley moved to approve the board order from June 2023 in the amount of \$10,990,392.57. Seconded by Chris McVeigh, this motion carried unanimously.

8. Personnel

8.1. Approve New Teachers, Resignations, Leave of Absence, and Changes in FTE: Chris McVeigh moved to approve the following hires: Kirby Wissman – Special Educator – Berlin; Herb Perez – MS Social Studies Teacher-U-32; Daniel Velez – Literacy Interventionist - Berlin; Katherine McCauley-Flippin – Educational Support - Berlin; Ruth Frisenda – School Counselor-Calais; Elizabeth Bevins – Instructional Interventionist/ Kindergarten - EMES; Samantha Mishkit – Science Teacher - U32; Elizabeth Semler – Work Based Learning Coordinator - U-32; Jennifer Pelletier – School Counselor - U-32; Karla Eberlein – Intensive Needs Special Educator - EMES. Seconded by Daniel Keeney, this motion carried unanimously. Flor Diaz Smith expressed appreciation to the central office staff for the work that goes into recruiting new hires. **Chris McVeigh moved to approve rehire of Maryellen Munday – School-Wide Student Support-Rumney. Seconded by Ursula Stanley, this motion carried unanimously. Chris McVeigh moved to accept the resignations of: Lindsay Wright - MS Social Studies Teacher –U-32; Michael Abadi – Special Education Teacher - U-32; Tess Knepp – Science Teacher - U-32; Shannon MacKinnon – Special Educator-EMES. Seconded by Mckalyn Leclerc, this motion carried unanimously.** Maggie Weiss asked for an explanation of the Provisional Teaching License. Superintendent Roy shared that this is a process that the superintendent applies for on behalf of an employee and the Agency of Education considers the application. The person is required to make a plan to achieve whatever is needed for the Level 1 Teaching license within two years. She stated

that this is a process that we have used in an ongoing way; however, we have a greater need for provisional licenses at this time due to staffing shortages.

- 8.2. Update on Vacancies:** Superintendent Roy shared updates on the ongoing position vacancies. She noted that we may have some updates at the September board meeting, for the board to consider, to address some of these ongoing vacancies.

9. Future Agenda Items

- 9.1. 2023-2024 Board Calendar:** Superintendent Roy briefly reviewed the board work plan. Chris McVeigh asked whether there has been a discussion with Montpelier about consolidation. Superintendent Roy stated that this consideration would fall under configuration discussions (if appropriate); she indicated that the feasibility study for this consideration would be a huge lift and a long process. Chris McVeigh stated that as these discussions (re the concept of consolidation with Montpelier) are already happening on Front Porch Forum, he believes it is something that should be considered as part of the configuration study that is upcoming, as opposed to having two separate discussions or creating one configuration and then considering another/ different soon thereafter.

- 10. Executive Session: Student Enrollment Exception Request: At 8:21, Jonas Eno-Van Fleet moved to enter the Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Student Enrollment Exception Requests, including Meagan Roy. Seconded by Chris McVeigh, the motion carried unanimously. At 8:52, Ursula Stanley moved to leave the Executive Session. Seconded by Jonas Eno-Van Fleet the motion carried unanimously. Jonas Eno-Van Fleet moved to affirm the Administration's recommendations regarding two Student Enrollment Exception Requests. Seconded by Daniel Keeney, the motion carried unanimously.**

- 11. Executive Session: Negotiations: At 8:53, Jonas Eno-Van Fleet moved that as public discussion of negotiations would put the District in an adverse position, the Board moved into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing negotiations, including Meagan Roy. Seconded by Jonathan Goddard, the motion carried unanimously. At 9:00, Jonas Eno-Van Fleet moved to leave the Executive Session. Seconded by Ursula Stanley, the motion carried unanimously. During Executive Session the Board discussed negotiations.**

12. Board Reflection

- 13. Adjourn: At 9:00, Jonas Eno-Van Fleet moved to adjourn. Seconded by Ursula Stanley, this motion carried unanimously.**

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