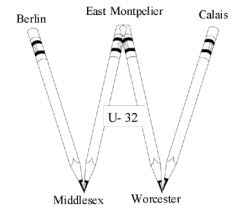


Washington Central UniUnion School District

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
Berlin Elementary School
372 Paine Turnpike N.
Berlin, VT 05602
1.3.24 6:15-8:15 PM
In-Person/Virtual**

Board Members: Flor Diaz Smith, Chris McVeigh, Kari Bradley, Maggie Weiss, Mckalyn Leclerc, Ursula Stanley, Daniel Keeney, Zach Sullivan, Amelia Contrada, Kealy Sloan, Joshua Sevits, Natasha Eckart, Student Representative Linnea Darrow

Others: Superintendent Meagan Roy, Steven Dellinger-Pate, Jen Miller-Arsenault, ORCA Media, Celia Guggemos, Allison Fayle, Brian Fischer, David Delcore, David Lawrence, Honi Bean Barrett, Aly Mahony, Ben

1. **Call to Order:** Flor Diaz Smith called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m. Flor Diaz Smith wished a happy new year to all and spoke about the theme of “new beginnings.”
2. **Welcome**
 - 2.1. **Adjustments to the Agenda:** Flor Diaz Smith noted that she would like to add 5.5: *Approve mail-in ballots* and there will be an Executive Session at the end of the meeting, for personnel issues. **Ursula Stanley moved to accept the amended agenda. Seconded by Chris McVeigh, this motion carried unanimously.**
 - 2.2. **Reception of Guests**
 - 2.3. **Public Comments-Time limit strictly enforced, see note:** Flor Diaz Smith invited public comments. Honi Bean Barrett, fifth/ sixth grade teacher at Doty, spoke about concerns of reduction of counseling position at Doty. She spoke about the critical role of the counselor at Doty, working together with the school nurse. She encouraged the board to find funding for a full time nurse and a full time counselor at Doty.

3. Presentations:

3.1. Social Emotional Learning (SEL) – Berlin: Principal Celia Guggemos presented to the board a slide deck: *Social Emotional Learning, Berlin Elementary School*. Maggie Weiss asked - has the survey (for staff) that is provided on the CASEL website, been utilized? Principal Guggemos stated that it has not been administered yet but that it would be a useful tool.

4. Reports to The Board

4.1. Student Report: Linnea Darrow provided a report to the board; she provided some sporting event updates. Linnea shared how important the guidance counselor at Doty School had been to her and she reinforced and reiterated some of the points that had been made earlier during public comment. Willow Mashkuri had provided an audio message for the board. She stated that an email would be circulating to board members to provide information about opportunities to visit U-32, as Willow had suggested at earlier board meetings.

5. Board Operations

5.1. Review of School Board Vacancies: Flor Diaz Smith stated that there are some interested parties in Calais for the vacant board seats. She asked whether any board members needed help or support in completing petitions for school board positions, before town meeting day.

5.2. Budget Warning Language: The draft warning has been shared with board members for their review and consideration. Kari Bradley suggested that we increase the board member stipend: \$1200 to directors and \$2400 to chair. He reviewed discussions from the past where board members have agreed to increase the stipend, for example, by \$50 per year. Board members discussed this concept and agreed that this is appropriate. Board members spoke about the desire for equitable access to board membership and expenses that might be barriers such as childcare, elder care, and transportation. Kari Bradley asked for clarification around the language indicating equalized per pupil cost. Chris McVeigh stated that he believes we should leave language in the warning that provides information to the public. "Equalized per pupil cost," though, is no longer a metric as Act 127 has changed the education funding and pupil weighting. Some discussion followed about what type of information can be shared on the warning to inform our constituents. Daniel Keeney stated that some of this information is more appropriate to share at the budget informational meeting, eliminate the nuanced language in the ballot warning, and keep it concise. **Chris McVeigh moved to strike the last two sentences in Article 6 of the warning. Seconded by Kari Bradley. This motion carried unanimously.** Article 5: District School Clerk pay. Flor Diaz Smith suggested increasing the rate to \$700 or \$750. Joshua Sevits suggested increasing the rate to \$1000. Kari Bradley asked whether Melissa Tuller is tracking the hours spent in this role. Flor Diaz Smith asked whether we would like to consider the Treasurer compensation.

Kari Bradley moved to increase annual stipend for Clerk to \$1000, Treasurer to \$6700, Directors to \$1200, Chair to \$2400. Seconded by Chris McVeigh, this motion carried unanimously.

5.3. Communication & Engagement Planning - Budget: Superintendent Roy shared that there is a draft for the tri-fold mailing which includes a QR code as the board has discussed previously. The hope is that the draft will be ready for the board to review at the January 17 meeting.

5.4. Board Clerk Pay: (this was discussed above.)

5.5. Mailing ballots: **Kari Bradley moved to approve mail-in ballots for the five towns of WCUUSD. Seconded by Ursula Stanley, this motion carried unanimously.**

6. Policy

6.1. Second reading for Policies to be Adopted on January 3, 2023:Chris McVeigh presented the following policies for board review and adoption:

6.1.1.B20: Personnel, Recruitment, Selection, and Background Checks

6.1.2.D22: Library Media Center Selection and Reconsideration (formerly D34)

6.1.3.A30: Policies and Procedures (formerly A2)

6.1.4.A20: Board Meetings, Agenda Preparation & Distribution

6.1.5.A22: Notice of Non-Discrimination

Ursula Stanley moved to approve the policies as presented. Seconded by Joshua Sevits. Discussion of edits: “Personnel” in the title of B20 (not “personal”); also Maggie Weiss pointed out a formatting error in this policy. **This motion carried unanimously with the noted edits.**

6.2. First Reading of Policies

6.2.1. F26 Security Cameras: The policy committee provided this draft for the first reading. U-32 had a related policy in the past, which was compared with the model policy, resulting in this draft. Some discussion followed around how long the log will be kept on file. Diane Nichols-Fleming suggested that we consult with legal counsel on this issue; Steven Dellinger-Pate stated that if this is considered “student records,” then the statute is clear.

7. Consent Agenda

7.1. Approve Minutes of 12.20.23: **Ursula Stanley moved to approve the minutes. Seconded by Maggie Weiss, this motion carried unanimously.**

8. Personnel

8.1. Approve New Teachers, Resignations, Leaves of Absence, and Changes in FTE: **Ursula Stanley moved to approve long-term substitute for the 2023-24 school year, Anna Gerretson – U-32 English. Seconded by Natasha Eckart, this motion carried unanimously.**

9. Future Agenda Items

9.1. 2023-2024 Board Work Plan

9.2. Jan 17: Final budget presentation

10. Board Reflection: Chris McVeigh expressed appreciation for visiting the different school buildings. Joshua Sevits thanked Principal Guggemos for clearly explaining “SEL.” (Social-emotional learning). Kari Bradley stated that the new format of board meetings is very helpful and efficient and that it allows the board to have a broader experience for example facilitated book study, and presentations at each school campus. He appreciates keeping the meetings to two hours as a regular practice.

11. Executive Session: Ursula moved to go into Executive Session for personnel, and to include Superintendent Roy. Seconded by Mckalyn Leclerc, this motion carried unanimously and the board went into Executive Session at 7:36. At 7:55, Ursula Stanley moved to leave Executive Session. Seconded by Natasha Eckart. No action was taken.

12. Adjourn: At 7:59, Natasha Eckart moved to adjourn. Seconded by Mckalyn Leclerc, this motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Grace, Board Recording Secretary
and Flor Diaz Smith, Board Chair