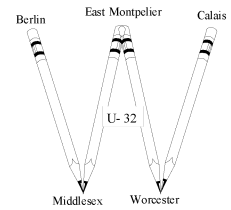


Washington Central Unified Union School District

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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**WCUUSD Finance Committee
Meeting Minutes
2.21.24 5:00-6:00 PM
In-Person
U-32
Rm 128/131
930 Gallison Hill Rd
Montpelier, VT**

Present: Flor Diaz Smith, Superintendent Roy, Principal Dellinger-Pate, Daniel Keeney, Alicia Lyford, Kari Bradley, Zach Sullivan, Ursula Stanley, Mckalyn Leclerc, Diane Nichols-Fleming, Susanne Gann, Mark Kline, Gillian Fuqua, Jen Miller-Arsenault, Alison Fayle, Honi Bean Barrett, Brian Fischer

1. Call to Order: Flor Diaz Smith called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

2. Discussion/Action

2.1. Configuration Study: Superintendent Roy presented a slide deck around the Configuration Study. She acknowledged that this is difficult work and requires hard conversations. She shared configuration models based on FY26 enrollment projections. The AOE has objective figures indicating acceptable number of students per square feet; the slide deck showed a comparison chart of Total Student Capacity (based on AOE standards) and Current Capacity for each school facility. Steven Dellinger-Pate explained some of the slides related to U-32 incorporating a middle school model including grade 6. Zach Sullivan asked a question about licensure logistics (e.g. middle level versus 7-12, based on the scenario of U-32 incorporating 6th grade.) Steven Dellinger Pate explained portfolio review and other ways to add endorsement; the specifics are unknown but this does not appear to be a major barrier. Alicia Lyford explained slides related to a “3 preK-5 Elementary School Model,” “2 Elementary Schools K-5, 1 Early Education Center (birth -preK) Model.” Kari Bradley asked: would this create an opportunity to take on other early education children? Superintendent Roy: yes; we would partner with early ed centers. Superintendent Roy shared “Other Models Considered,” and considered the configuration and/ or feasibility criteria. (These models do not meet the criteria.) Daniel Keeney asked for clarification around the early childhood center as possible revenue. He asked whether the board would maintain responsibility for such a center. Superintendent Roy stated that this is a possibility; this is spelled out in the articles of agreement. Kari Bradley asked, in the configuration models, is there some facilities

expenses that would be required? Steven Dellinger-Pate explained that there would likely need some in order to accommodate 6th grade students. Superintendent Roy stated that for an early ed center there would likely be the need for some capital projects to update a facility to meet requirements. Kari Bradley asked whether there is some consideration for enrollment projections past FY27 - we need to be considering long term strategic planning. Superintendent Roy stated that the configuration models would likely sustain changes in student enrollment better than the current model. Alicia Lyford explained the modeling and considerations for preK. Flor Diaz Smith asked: What questions did this presentation raise for you? Diane Nichols-Fleming noted that this committee is not the board; it is the Finance Committee and Configuration Study Committee; she wanted to clarify. What struck you as significant? / What are the implications for our work? Kari Bradley appreciates this analysis and what it is telling us. He hopes that it will bring confidence that we are proceeding in a rational way. Mckalyn Leclerc stated that, as someone who is emotionally attached to Doty, she feels that this is exciting - e.g. the early ed option. She stated that the challenge will be explaining to the community in such a way that they see it as an opportunity as opposed to a "loss." She stated that she prefers the preK-5 school model because of the distance of Berlin for some of the WCUUSD communities. Steven Dellinger-Pate stated that he was shocked looking at the numbers and observing that two elementary schools could actually serve our population. Ursula Stanley stated that it was shocking to see that we could accommodate all of the K-5 students in one building. Zach Sullivan - thinking about the two school model, we need to think about how long we are putting small children on buses. Some discussion followed around bus routes and hypothetical bus routes. Diane Nichols-Fleming stated that we need to keep in mind that we are meeting some criteria but what other challenges are we creating (e.g. transportation and distance). Kari Bradley - the early childhood center is a possible solution for the broader community. Zach - what is the broader picture of Act 166 and how does this impact the planning? Superintendent Roy asked, how and at what level do you want to engage the community? Do you want to do more work as a committee and a board before engaging the community? The clock we are up against is an affordability clock but this is a long-game solution. Flor Diaz-Smith suggested that we need to communicate the opportunities sooner. Ursula Stanley stated that a lot of the feedback was that people wanted more involvement, earlier. Suggests sharing this out, getting some answers to the transportation issues. Kari Bradley stated that it is not the committee's role to communicate - get this to the board, the sooner the better, to communicate. The two school and three school options, along with more specific analysis, and communicate as early as possible. Ursula Stanley stated that it feels like the 6th grade middle school at U-32 is a necessary option. Should explore 6-8, share with the public, get input, and then share the two schools and three schools options. Flor Diaz Smith spoke about a possible timeline for the next few months re: full board, engagement of community, etc. Some discussion followed around class size. Superintendent Roy stated that there is a narrative to be shared around why we would want a larger class size - the idea of "large class size" is relative and Vermont has relatively small class sizes in elementary grades (e.g. 30 or less). Will present a version of this presentation with more info around transportation, FTE impact, special ed density, class size - for the April 3rd board meeting, plan this as a forum. Superintendent Roy reviewed board work plan;

she suggested that the steering committee might want to consider the work plan and make some plans to move things around (e.g. Climate Survey). Daniel Keeney stated that we as a committee should recommend to the WCUUSD Board to plan a forum. Superintendent Roy shared that the next board meeting (that is not focused on board reorganization) is April 3rd. Daniel Keeney stated that he feels we should bring this up to the full board tonight at the board meeting. Flor Diaz Smith stated that the intention is to share this as the committee's work to the WCUUSD board on April 3rd which is also planned as a forum night.

3. Future Agenda Items

3.1. Next Regular Meeting: March 12, 2024

3.2. Configuration Study Meeting: April 17, 2024

4. Adjourn: Committee adjourned by consensus at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Lisa Grace, Committee Recording Secretary

WCUUSD Board Norms - Adopted November 18, 2020

- **Public input** – Notify the community about public forums and opportunities for public comment at board meetings.
- **Community involvement during regular meetings of the board** – Every meeting will include at least one opportunity for public comment. Public comment is an opportunity for board members to listen and ask clarifying questions. If a board member feels a concern raised in public comment warrants further board discussion, they may request that the issue be added to a future agenda.
- **Community dialogue** – The board may periodically schedule community forums that allow for dialogue, questions and answers from the board or the district leadership team.
- **Stay on time** – Start and end on time. The chair may appoint a time-keeper.
- **All voices will be heard** – Every board member gets a chance to speak. Some topics warrant having each board member speak in turn to ensure full representation.
- **Reflection** – To allow time for reflection, the chair and agenda steering committee will plan time for complex or contentious issues to be discussed at more than one meeting before the board votes, except where a decision is urgent.
- **Announcements in reports** – Announcements from the administration will appear in the reports and not as discussion items.
- **Role of the board** – At the end of each board meeting reflect on whether the board remained focused on its policy-making and oversight role during the meeting, rather than operational details that are the responsibility of leadership team.

- **Respect each other** – Listen, allow others to be heard, share concerns, assume positive intentions, be present, celebrate successes.