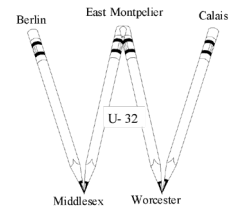


Washington Central Unified Union School District

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



**Washington Central Unified Union
School District
School Board Meeting
4.17.24 6:15-9:15 PM
U-32
930 Gallison Hill Rd
Montpelier, VT**

Board Members Present: Flor Diaz Smith, Ursula Stanley, Jonathan Goddard, Mckalyn Leclerc, Chris McVeigh, Zach Sullivan, Kealy Sloan, Daniel Keeney, Natasha Eckart, Michelle Ksepka, Amelia Contrada

Others Present: Superintendent Meagan Roy, Susanne Gann, Jen Miller-Arsenault, Steven Dellinger-Pate, ORCA Media, Celia Guggemos, Karoline May, Jes Wills, Kerra Holden, David Hannigan, Alicia Lyford, Allen Gilbert, Susanne Gann, David Lawrence, Elizabeth Marks, Erin Mooney, Erin Mullaney, Denise Roy, Ella Lyford, Hannah O'Brien, Honi Bean Barrett, Jen Donovan, John Riley, Lisa Hanna, Veronica Eldred, Amy Molina, Scott Starr, Larry Gilbert, Allison Fayle, Ann Gilbert, Ashley Lachance, Bonnie, Brittany Perry, Caitlin Usticke, Nancy Reilly, Deb F, Erika Zimmerman, Harriet Shea, Holly Lane, Jaeil P, Jane Tucker, J O'Hare, John and Emily, Julia Pritchard, Lawrence Miller, Lauralee Curavoo, LP, Michael Sherwin, Robin, Sharon S, Shelby Lavigne, Simone Labbanca, SRich, Tammy Hoermann, Tom Hamlin, Virginia Burley, Will Baker, Annie Ledue, Buffy Langlois, Rachel Richards, Peter Shattuck, Gillian Fuqua, Jenn Ingersoll, iPhones

1. Call to Order: Flor Diaz Smith called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

2. Welcome

2.1. Adjustments to the Agenda: no adjustments to the agenda tonight.

2.2. Reception of Guests: Flor Diaz Smith spoke about the concept of "perseverance" to set the tone for tonight's meeting.

2.3. Public Comments-Time limit strictly enforced, see note: Flor Diaz Smith invited public comments that are not related to the budget, as a presentation will follow and public comments will be invited after. Lila Richardson indicated that she does not feel enough time was allowed at the previous meeting to discuss configuration. She stated that the board has been working on the budget but not explaining thoroughly enough to the public the ideas about configuration. She suggested that meetings need to be well notified and the community should be involved; not only community members who have school age children.

3. Presentation: Proposed Budget Information and Article of District Warning: Board members presented information about the proposed budget via slide deck. Flor Diaz Smith reminded those present that the vote is May 7 and that people can request a mail- in ballot. Flor Diaz Smith invited public comment. Larry Gilbert spoke regarding \$0.5 million non-personnel reduction: he asked for specifics. Superintendent Roy explained that this reflects considering line by line items that can be reduced creating a leaner line. Susanne Gann explained that almost \$100K was from the capital budget because a project came in under what was budgeted. She explained other ways of shaving off some of the numbers, which were interest related. Larry Gilbert stated that he believes this amount of money should be explained in greater detail. He asked, if we were to close a school, how much money would we save? It would be good to know now, how much savings we would get, before voting on this budget on May 7. Superintendent Roy stated some estimates: \$343,000, reduction in contribution to capital fund (2+ million dollars), also reduction in FTE staffing - this is all hypothetical and based on models, as the board has not yet determined which model to move toward. Susanne Gann indicated that these are conservative estimates; this is not a deep dive into details. Nancy Reilly asked whether there is a consideration for PCB remediation - for example, we are proposing taking money from the fund balance. Superintendent Roy stated that the application of fund balance for this budget leaves more than the 2% recommended, in anticipation of those expenses. Holly Lane asked about proposed ratios of the student to counselor: are they appropriate, considering the stressors we are facing today (e.g., post-COVID-19). Does not want to reduce the budget to the point of hindering important support services. Superintendent Roy stated that these proposed ratios are within the parameters provided by state education quality standards. Flor Diaz Smith stated that everyone will receive a flyer in the mail and she reminded those present that they could request a mail-in ballot from their town clerk offices.

4. Reports to the Board

4.1. Student Report: (no students tonight)

4.2. Superintendent/Central Office Leadership Team (COLT) Report: Flor Diaz Smith stated that the board had presented Superintendent Roy and Susanne Gann with flowers in thanks for the very hard work they have undertaken. Board members applauded.

Superintendent Roy had provided a written report. She shared that the policy committee had met to discuss School Choice and had decided to update and make more specific procedures related to school choice, but not to create a policy.

4.3. Central Vermont Career Center (CVCC) Report: Flor Diaz Smith provided a brief update; a written report was provided.

5. Board Operations:

5.1. Approve 2024-2025 Calendar: Ursula Stanley moved to approve the 2024-25 calendar as presented. Seconded by Michelle Ksepka, this motion carried unanimously.

5.2. Approve Last Day of School: Chris McVeigh moved to set the last day of school for all WCUUSD students to be Tuesday, June 18, resulting in waiving 1 school day for WCUUSD elementary students and 2 school days for U-32 students. Seconded by Kealy Sloan, this motion carried unanimously.

5.3. Adopt Strategic Plan: Ursula Stanley moved to adopt the Strategic Plan as presented in the board packet. Seconded by Daniel Keeney. Discussion: Chris McVeigh asked whether there is a requirement to report to the board. Superintendent Roy: yes, on an

annual basis; however, this will also be built into the work of the Education Quality Committee. Zach Sullivan asked how the board and the administration interact around the Strategic Plan. Superintendent Roy stated that when the board receives a report, it will make a decision about whether they have received enough information, and if not, the board can request further information/ indicators. Chris McVeigh asked for specifics about the potential for a youth advisory council. Superintendent Roy: We will define what is their work, what is the composition, etc. It can vary depending on what the board is looking for in their work. **This motion carried unanimously.** Flor Diaz Smith thanked the Strategic Planning Committee and Jeannie Phillips for their work on this project.

5.4. Board Vacancies: There is one in Calais and one in Worcester. Flor Diaz Smith stated that there is a hope that we can interview candidates at the May board meeting.

6. Finance Committee

6.1. Approve FY24 Audit Report: Ursula Stanley moved to adopt the audit report as presented in tonight's budget packet. **Seconded by Zach Sullivan. Discussion:** Ursula Stanley commended the business office that there were no significant findings and that the process went smoothly. **This motion carried unanimously.**

7. Personnel

7.1. Approve New Teachers, Resignations, Leave of Absence, and Changes in FTE: none tonight

8. Consent Agenda

8.1. Approve Minutes of 4.10.24: Ursula Stanley moved to approve the minutes from April 10, 2024. **Seconded by Kealy Sloan; this motion carried unanimously.**

8.2. Approve Board Orders: Daniel Keeney moved to approve the board orders, dated 3-14-24 through 4-17-24, for \$1,058,161.58. **Seconded by Michelle Ksepka. This motion carried unanimously.**

9. Future Agenda Items: Daniel Keeney suggested that future agendas include updates on the configuration process. Flor Diaz Smith reviewed the board work plan. Natasha Eckart stated that the middle school drama Stage 16 put on an amazing show!

10. Adjourn: Kealy Sloan moved to adjourn at 7:27 p.m. **Seconded by Zach Sullivan, this motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Grace, Board Recording Secretary