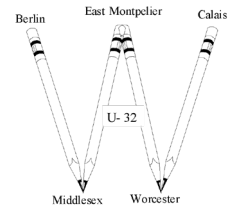


Washington Central Unified Union School District

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
Superintendent



WCUUSD Finance Committee

Meeting Minutes

4.17.24 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, Zach Sullivan, Ursula Stanley, Mckalyn Leclerc, Susanne Gann, Mark Kline, Jen Miller-Arsenault, Michelle Ksepka, Chris McVeigh, Kealy Sloan, Ellen Knoedler

- 1. Call to Order: Flor Diaz Smith called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.** Flor Diaz Smith reviewed that she would like to discuss with the committee tonight what is the hoped outcome. Daniel Keeney suggested holding ourselves to a June decision as a board; that way our communities have an opportunity to vote in November if possible. Chris McVeigh stated that, timewise, we could still decide in September in time to have a vote on the ballot in November. He does not think we should make any recommendations without community input. We must engage our communities since there are two that will be directly, and substantially impacted. Flor Diaz Smith stated that she hoped we could be more specific in a timeline. Superintendent Roy suggested: concretely, what is the outcome for today? For backward designing. The board can consider what kind of community engagement we would like to have and when. Summer can be a great opportunity for engagement or it can be a time when families are traveling/ busy. Ursula Stanley asked what is the difference between the amount of engagement in June, to engagement in September, given summertime. There is a 30-day requirement to warn. Superintendent Roy stated that a November date for voting would be wise. Zach Sullivan stated that if we wanted to go and knock on doors, summertime would be a good time to do that (have individual conversations). He stated that he is hearing people ask "What is the long-term plan when considering the budget that we are presenting now?" He thinks that having a plan/ timeline to share, toward a November vote, would be helpful. Kealy Sloan: having community input and then "socialization" of that - "ramping" that up in the communities. E.g. maybe community input by June and communication with our communities by November vote. Ursula Stanley stated that we have to keep in mind that change is hard and there can be a lot of resistance. Flor Diaz Smith stated that she would like to continue to focus on opportunities and to communicate that with our communities. Chris McVeigh stated that having our communities come out and engage with the board is important. Closing schools will be hard on towns and we must keep that in mind. For example, for a handful of our students, there will be a social impact and for townspeople, there will be an economic impact. Mckalyn Leclerc stated that community engagement is important but we need to be transparent - if the options are limited/ clear, then we need to communicate this. She noted that she had heard positive feedback about Steven

Dellinger-Pate's visit to Doty and the message he imparted. Kealy Sloan stated that there is room for input from the community in the two options. Ursula Stanley noted, though, that both options involve closing two school buildings. Mckalyn Leclerc suggested, regarding the timeline, maybe there are phases: getting feedback on the options, then choosing an option, then communicating about the vote. There was a review of the articles of agreement. A vote would require a vote of the board and a vote from the individual towns in which the schools (considering closure) reside. Superintendent Roy pointed out the difference between the default articles of agreement and the updated articles of agreement that our board amended and approved. Zach Sullivan stated that he believes both articles of agreement are published on our website and this can cause confusion. The committee discussed a sequential timeline: get feedback on the two scenarios, then process what we heard, narrow it down to one scenario, and then get feedback from the community about how to make this transition in a way that feels supported. Superintendent Roy suggested considering community engagement: the what and the who. (how do you do the work? and who does it? who is going to "hold" it?) (1) what is the right model? (2) enough about how we will transition so that the community will have some understanding of what to expect. Some structure will have to say "Here is the map, and can we do all that by September?" (We have to if we want to vote in November.) Daniel Keeney feels that the research committee still has some work to do, and would like to revisit that either today or soon - how to approach certain subjects like early childhood education, childcare, transportation? Superintendent Roy reminded the committee that they have one meeting per month (and summer is approaching). She spoke about the issue of transportation - the issue that garnered the most excitement from the community is the same issue that presents more logistics regarding transportation. She has a person working on information/ data about transportation.

2. Discussion/Action

2.1. Configuration Study: Superintendent Roy shared a summary from the April 3 input activity around Configuration Simulation. Some discussion followed around staffing depending on configuration models. Superintendent Roy stated that the staff contract would prevail. Class size was an issue that came up in the input. Daniel Keeney stated that he has heard that teachers are already talking about this. The way we support teachers through this transition needs to happen now; we must get out in front of that. Kealy Sloan cautioned that there is some very specific licensure related to childcare and early childhood; it will be important to have some expertise at the table to talk about this. Chris McVeigh asked specifically, what is meant by supporting staff in the transition. Administrators explained different teacher requirements depend on their endorsement; this information will be shared with teachers. Some discussion followed around professional development funds. Steven Dellinger-Pate indicated that the association is already working on this issue. Daniel Keeney stated that there seems to be an imbalance between the amount of information the people at U-32 receive/ share, and those at the elementary schools. Steven Dellinger-Pate suggested that we partner with the association around professional development; he stated that they are ready and willing to do this. Some discussion followed around administrative/ leadership positions. Superintendent Roy stated that this is still unclear under the proposed simulated models. She stated that we do not have a senior administrative team. The key will be in "selling" a structure, regardless of naming people.

3. Future Agenda Items

3.1. Next Regular Meeting: ~~April 30, 2024~~(this is a morning meeting). Daniel Keeney suggested that Tuesday morning meetings are hard for both him and Michelle Ksepka; he suggested considering a different date. Melissa Tuller will send a Finance Committee meeting invited for April 29 at 9 a.m. Daniel Keeney asked whether there would be more information available at that time around early childhood. (the partnering opportunities, full day preK, potential to use one of the school buildings for daycare). Michelle Ksepka brought up the easement agreements in Calais and Middlesex. Superintendent Roy stated that some transportation information regarding configuration options might be available by April 29th.

3.2. Configuration Study Meeting: May 22, 2024

4. Adjourn: The committee adjourned by consensus at 6:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Lisa Grace, Committee Recording Secretary