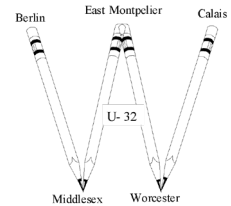


Washington Central Unified Union School District

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 10.8.24 8:30-9:30 am Virtual Central Office 1130 Gallison Hill Rd Montpelier, VT

Present: Flor Diaz Smith, Steven Dellinger-Pate, Susanne Gann, Elizabeth Brown, Chris McVeigh, Ursula Stanley, Jen Miller-Arsenault, Natasha Eckart, Daniel Keeney, Noah Weinstein, Rebecca Tatistcheff

1. **Call to Order: Flor Diaz Smith called the meeting to order at 8:33 am.** Flor had a change to the agenda to include Public Comments after Future Agenda Items, as people from the public were present.
2. **Approve Minutes of 9.10.24, 9.16.24: Daniel motioned to approve the minutes of 9.10.24, and 9.16.24. Seconded by Chris. The motion passed.**
3. **Informational Reports**
 - 3.1. **Monthly Reflections:** Susanne provided a memo highlighting some of the work for the fiscal department over the last month including the FY 25-26 Act 173 Special Education Plan due to the AOE in October, the FY 23-24 grant closeout reports submitted in September and updates to the Fixed Assets system to reflect all assets added/deleted in FY 23-24.
4. **Discussion/Action**
 - 4.1. **FY 2025-26 Budget Discussion:** Steven provided a memo and advised that the Leadership team has met. He advised there is quite a bit of work to be done before they can provide a Draft # 1 budget. He went over some questions that the leadership team had in order to help the budget development process. Flor asked if the committee wanted to reaffirm the budget

parameters and criteria so that could provide guidance. There was some discussion. These questions included the following:

- **Should the Leadership team pursue different grade level configurations such as consolidating Pre-K programs at fewer schools or moving 6th grade to U-32?**
The committee advised that the leadership team should look at different configurations being that the excess spending threshold is 2.4 million. Steven clarified that they have not looked at any options yet; they want to know what are the boundaries that they can look at. Chris asked for a full budget to be provided rather than a summary and what the average budget increase over the past 5 years was percentage-wise excluding last year. There was some discussion surrounding food procurement, Special education funding, and other areas that may be priorities.
- **Does the Board have priorities about programs or services that could be reduced or expanded i.e.: Co-curricular, transportation, nursing, etc.?** Steven advised this is a broad question asking what the Board is willing to support or not support. Daniel spoke about discretionary cuts. Chris asked what the non-discretionary cuts for the district are and could that be provided to the board.
- **What timeline will the Board be following with the configuration committee?**

4.2. Budget Parameters: Discussed earlier

4.3. Budget Criteria : Discussed earlier

4.4. Finance Configuration Committee Next Steps: Flor advised this will be informed by the budget and these conversations still need to happen. Steven advised the goal now is to bring Draft # 1 Budget and the leadership needs to know in order to plan. Members of the finance committee agreed that the configuration committee should reconvene.

5. Future Agenda Items

5.1. Next Regular Meeting : November 12, 2024

6. Public Comments: Noah Weinstein asked about the November 6 meeting. It is now a community meeting and not a board meeting. He asked if that was the case how they could help to get community members to attend. He also stated that community members should be involved earlier in the budget process in order to know what the community would accept for a budget in order to pass it. He suggested a survey be sent out to the community earlier in regards to what the community would accept in the budget. He also asked about budget ambassadors' note and what that is. Alan Gilbert spoke about looking at past budgets for a guide to building next year's budget. He stated you would have to look at pre-pandemic budgets, as much of the funds were special one-time funds. He also stated to look at per pupil spending per school and study anomalies that have become evident. Track weighted funds to the specific schools or specific groups of students for which the money is intended, make sure money is going to where it is intended. Do not be afraid to go line by line through the budget that you are presented by the administration. Give the administration a maximum budget number you would like them to meet. Do not treat children as if marbles, shooting them at any hole they might fit in, they are human just like us they crave stability and home. Flor spoke about budget ambassadors, she advised they are staff members, and they are collaborative for transparency. Steven stated that the budget ambassadors are staff so that we have communication between the staff, the building of the budget and the buildings that it is

occurring in. They are advisory to the budget process and helping develop the budget communication. Community forums are to look at how we work people outside of the system to make sure their voices are heard. He advised the timelines are being revised.

7. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 9:37 am by consensus.

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa Tuller
Administrative Assistant