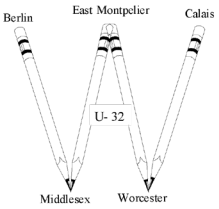
Washington Central Unified Union School District

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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Washington Central Unified Union School Board Meeting
3.19.25
6:15-8:15 PM
(Virtual)
U-32 Middle & High School
930 Gallison Hill Rd
Montpelier, VT

Present: Elizabeth Brown, Zach Sullivan, Daniel Keeney, Ursula Stanley, Chris McVeigh, Mckalyn Leclerc, Patrick Whelley, Natasha Eckart, Julia Hewitt, Kealy Sloan

Administrators: Superintendent Steven Dellinger-Pate, Susanne Gann, Julia Pritchard

Others: Lila Richardson, ORCA Media, David Delcore, Allison Fayle, Andrea Chandler, Marilyn Martin, Jen Campbell, Shelby Quinn

1. **Call to Order: Ursula Stanley called the meeting to order at 6:19 p.m.**

2. **Welcome**
   2.1. **Adjustments to The Agenda:** none
   2.2. **Reception of Guests:** Ursula Stanley welcomed guests and invited public comment.
   2.3. **Public Comments-Time limit strictly enforced, see note**: (none at this time)

3. **Presentation: Strategic Plan Updates**: Steven Dellinger-Pate shared a slide deck providing a brief update of the status of the strategic planning. He spoke about tracking goals and populating a chart of data around strategic plan goals and what we are doing to meet those goals. He shared a slide deck: *WCUUSD Strategic Plan, Accountability Measures.* He invited feedback and responses from board members and the public.
   3.1. Q & A:
   Elizabeth Brown: In regards to assessment for social/ emotional learning in elementary school, when a child is screened and there are areas identified, what have schools done to mediate that? Superintendent Dellinger-Pate noted that we have administered this once to date, teachers gather for data consideration, and teacher teams and school counselors,

behavior support, etc., and reach out individually to students to delve further as needed. There is a follow up for every student who is flagged in the screening. For example, intervention/ support re: executive functioning skills, etc. He shared that we are learning from this first round of assessment and data consideration.

Chris McVeigh asked when we expect a curriculum audit. Superintendent Dellinger-Pate estimates that it will go into the next school year.

Chris McVeigh: Are you satisfied that the measures that are currently being used and are they effective? Is the assessment measuring what you want it to measure, for example, the writing assessment? Steven Dellinger-Pate stated that they are being used to make decisions about instruction for students and to measure progress over time.

Daniel Keeney noticed that there are many ways we are collecting data, from baseline to aspirational goal. The one that he sees as absent is the Climate Survey. A thoughtful Climate Survey would help to inform goals from the Strategic Plan. Superintendent Dellinger-Pate stated that we will be conducting a climate survey this year - we had been on a schedule to do this every two years but the board has asked that it be done this year due to new leadership.

Julia Hewitt: How are writing prompts being assessed? Steven Dellinger-Pate stated that teachers have developed rubrics. He offered to share the rubrics; Julia Hewitt stated that she would like to see them.

Ursula Stanley invited any feedback from the public.

Lila Richardson: Expressed concern about what is discussed at the board retreat, without public participation. How does that process work if substantive discussions are going on? Steven Dellinger-Pate stated that the retreat is a chance for the board to do longer, more thorough planning. Whatever data is discussed at the retreat can be made public. Lila Richardson responded that, ideally, you would not have a retreat that does not involve public participation. Ursula Stanley shared that the board retreat this past year involved board training and working out specifics of the board work plan.

4. Reports

4.1. Superintendent/Central Office Leadership Team (COLT) Report: Superintendent Dellinger-Pate had provided a written report. Susanne Gann provided some updated information about federal funding for school systems. She shared that, for example, Medicaid funding and child nutrition funding may be impacted by federal action.

Patrick Whelley noted that the Department of Education has lost a number of employees, what impact do you see? Susanne Gann responded that we have only one grant this year that we communicate directly with the DOE - she stated that cuts would affect the ability that the state agency of education will have in being able to address/ answer questions as they are in contact with DOE often.

Diane Nichols-Fleming asked for information about the change in schedule at U-32. It is difficult to help people understand changes in the system when we are not made aware of them. She had been hoping to see more information in the report tonight. Steven Dellinger-Pate stated that this information will be shared with the board later this week and Principal Tatistchef will be at the next board meeting to share information.

Julia Pritchard highlighted some of the information from the report about extended school year services for students with IEPs.

Steven Dellinger-Pate shared that we are at the beginning of a fact-finding process with Turtle Island about the possibility of shared space. More information will be forthcoming.

Steven Dellinger-Pate stated that we do not have an action item in tonight's agenda about a feasibility study with the Montpelier-Roxbury School District. He will leave it to the board as to whether this should be an action item tonight. He proposes at least getting bids on this study and then bringing the board bids at the next board meeting. The idea at this stage is to hire an outside agency to prepare a feasibility study, side-by-side of both of the districts, and some early discussions about possibilities of shared resources, and what are the possibilities of including other districts in the future. He shared some information within the chat. He noted that we are in the earliest conversations, and the study intends to share the cost equally and not spend more than $5K.

Diane Nichols-Fleming: Is there thinking about how this might be informing the Configuration Committee? Superintendent Dellinger-Pate expects that gathering information would provide fodder for the Configuration Committee. Diane Nichols-Fleming posed, as a board, how do we stay ahead of it, in the driver's seat as opposed to being told what to do? Should we as a board, is there a point person to help navigate this? The board agreed to move forward with seeking bids at this point. Superintendent Dellinger-Pate stated that a Principal's Report would be included in the next board meeting packet.

4.2. Student Report: (none tonight)

4.3. Central Vermont Career Center Report: Patrick Whelley shared that the career center is in the process of seating students for the upcoming school year and considering which programs do not have enough students to move forward. The Emergency Services II program and Design/ Stone working program were cut due to a lack of participation/ enrollment. He stated that it is a dynamic time right now for the Career Center. He stated that he would have more information to share about plans for a new career center facility. He noted that an opening remains on the board at the career center; he invited people to reach out to him or Jody Emerson.

4.4. VSBA Report: Ursula Stanley reminded the board to read the Tuesday email and to consider attending webinars as offered. VSA: Superintendent Dellinger shared a resource - a summary/ analysis of Trump administration executive action. This information is updated regularly.

5. **Board Operations**

5.1. Reflect on Budget Process: What worked?

Mckalyn Leclerc: Appreciated the way that leadership team approached the budget this year. It was done in a way that was clear and put individual decisions in the hands of the principals. Seemed like a clear and equitable process.

Chris McVeigh: Echoed what Mckalyn Leclerc said; however would like to discuss further how to not put principals in a position to make decisions about prioritizing one thing at the expense of another (e.g. school nursing.)

Natasha Eckart: Appreciated that the budget was presented from the standpoint of "here is what is best for kids" as opposed to "here is how much money you want us to spend. " This set a different tone for the conversation. Student-focused as opposed to money-focused.

Diane Nichols-Fleming would appreciate an opportunity to have this conversation with the leadership team as well. We named a number of things that would be monitored and adjusted as needed. We as a board need to know how to support our schools, moving forward, especially in light of what is changing in the federal (and state) government.

5.2. Configuration Committee Update: Superintendent Dellinger-Pate shared briefly from tonight's meeting. Programming is how to meet our vision - our structure comes from the programming and our budget comes from the structure. How do we define the core needs of our students? Then what are the other things that we want for our students? How can the structure of our schools meet the programming needs? Many components of MTSS, many times our schools can do a couple of them well. The question is, where do we "give" within these components, in maintaining our current structure? He had shared his slide deck on the website as well as in the chat tonight. Natasha Eckart asked about the term "configuration" - defining the term or coming up with a different term to frame the work. Kealy Sloan shared that the committee had agreed that transparency is important; it might not seem transparent to change the name from "configuration." The committee had worked on clearly defining the term "configuration."

5.3. Board Vacancies: The District Clerk position is open. A seat in Berlin remains open. Chris McVeigh shared a vacancy on the configuration committee for a Worcester representative. Steven Dellinger-Pate noted that we had another person from Worcester who had applied initially to the Configuration Committee, should we appoint that person? Board members agreed with this. Steven Dellinger-Pate will reach out to that person. If that falls through, we will post the position as a vacancy. The Communication Committee will create a post related to these vacancies.

6. **Finance Committee**
   6.1. **Should the Board Approve the Berlin Volunteer Fire Department's request its tenancy for the lease of land on Berlin Elementary School property to the Town of Berlin? Patrick Whelley moved to approve the Berlin Volunteer Fire Department's request regarding tenancy for the lease of land on Berlin Elementary School property to the Town of Berlin. Seconded by Natasha Eckart.** Discussion: Chris McVeigh asked, does this need to be something we do in writing? Steven Dellinger-Pate stated that there would be documents prepared and someone will need to assign on behalf of the board; he had sought legal counsel on this matter. Patrick Whelley amended the motion to make it clear that this is limited to the language from the previous agreement and to authorize the superintendent and chair of the board to sign the agreement. Natasha Eckart agreed to this amendment. **Amended motion: Patrick Whelley moved to approve the Berlin Volunteer Fire Department's request regarding tenancy for the lease of land on Berlin Elementary School property to the Town of Berlin, limited to the language from the previous agreement, and to authorize the superintendent and chair of the board to sign the agreement. This motion carried unanimously.**

7. **Policy Committee**
   7.1. **Second Readings**
      7.1.1. **Sanctuary School Policy: Chris McVeigh moved to approve this policy. Seconded by Zach Sullivan.** Discussion: Steven Dellinger-Pate stated that legal counsel had noted there is one slight risk, the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 indicates that public officials need to answer to public officials. He does not see this as a significant risk; it is not something that has been called upon but did want to bring it to the awareness of the board. **This motion carried unanimously.**
      7.1.2. **C71 Emergency Medication: Chris McVeight moved to adopt policy C71 as presented. Seconded by Kealy Sloan.** Discussion: Ursula Stanley asked about the numbering of this policy. **This motion carried unanimously.**
      7.1.3. **Repeal C30 Student Medication: Chris McVeigh moved to repeal C30. Seconded by Kealy Sloan, this motion carried unanimously.**

8. **Personnel**
   8.1. **Approve New Teachers, Resignations, Leave of Absence, and Changes in FTE:** None tonight

9. **Consent Agenda**
   9.1. **Approve Minutes of 2.19.25, 3.3.25, and 3.12.25: Chris McVeigh moved to approve the minutes of 2.19.25, 3.3.25, 3.12.25. Seconded by Kealy Sloan, this motion carried unanimously.**
   9.2. Board Orders: Diane Nichols-Fleming moved to approve the board orders in the total amount of $608,706.56. Seconded by Zach Sullivan, this motion carried unanimously

10. Future Agenda Items

10.1. Board Evaluation

10.2. Advocating as a Board

10.3. Superintendent Evaluation

Diane Nichols-Fleming asked whether the Climate Survey is included in the Superintendent Evaluation. Superintendent Dellinger-Pate - yes.

11. Board Reflections: none

12. Public Comments, Time limit strictly enforced, see note 15 minutes: Lila Richardson: There are things that are discussed in the meeting that never make it into the meeting record. There should be a process for including those presentations into the board record, regularly, for example links that were shared in the chat for tonight's meeting.

13. Adjourn: The board adjourned by consensus at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Lisa Grace, Board Recording Secretary