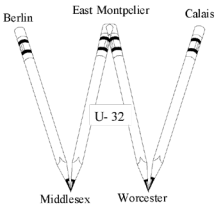
Washington Central Unified Union School District

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
9.17.25
6:15-9:15 PM
(In-Person & Virtual)
U-32 Middle & High School
930 Gallison Hill Rd
Montpelier, VT

Present: Superintendent Dellinger-Pate, Flor Diaz Smith, Daniel Keeney, Chris McVeigh, Jeannie Phillips, Becca Tatistcheff, Patrick Whelley, Marilyn Martin, Amelia Contrada, Gillian Fuqua, Ursula Stanley, Kealy Sloan, Mckalyn Leclerc, Jen Miller Arsenault, Susanne Gann, Julia Pritchard, Amy Molina, Alison Fayle, David Delcore, Elizabeth Brown, Michelle Ksepka, Allen Gilbert, Ian Buchanan, Lila Richardson, Lisa Hanna, Students: Elise O'Brien, Kathryn Stauffer, and Lei DeGroot, Jarrod Weiss, Julia Hewitt, Veronica Fair, Alicia Lyford, Deborah Bloom, Zach Sullivan, Dell Waterhouse

1. **Call to Order: Flor Diaz Smith called the meeting to order at 6:17 p.m.**

2. **Welcome:** Flor Diaz Smith welcomed everyone, especially the student representatives tonight. She read from a picture book around the topic of "caring."
   - **2.1. Adjustments to The Agenda:** Flor Diaz Smith stated that we would have a guest join our meeting tonight under item 5.4. The board accepted this adjustment.
   - **2.2. Reception of Guests**
   - **2.3. Public Comments-Time limit strictly enforced, see note 15 minutes:** Allen Gilbert stated that we are currently in a holding pattern regarding reconfiguration. He suggested conveying to the task force that we wish to form a supervisory union with other school districts in our area. He asked the board to please take action tonight.

3. **Presentations**
   - **3.1. Board Budget Training:** Superintendent Dellinger-Pate presented a slide deck: *FY27 Budget Presentation.* Flor Diaz Smith invited questions. Ursula Stanley asked for clarification around the criteria listed for teaching staff/ teacher allocation. Chris McVeigh asked whether teacher allocation involves moving a teacher from one school to another. Steven Dellinger-Pate stated that this is delineated in the collective bargaining agreement.

Steven Dellinger-Pate explained that we use the average cost of a teacher to consider the base allocation.
Chris McVeigh asked is there a base allocation for nursing services. Steven Dellinger-Pate stated that the initial allocation is prorated based on student population.
Patrick Whelley asked for specifics around district wide services versus school-based services.
Elizabeth Brown asked about reductions in nursing staffing. What has the process looked like to consider nursing services at each school? Steven Dellinger-Pate indicated that staff met just this week and are working on collecting data around needs at each school, how we are meeting the needs, how we can pull from the community to help in some areas.
Mckalyn Leclerc: Which of our schools have under 10 licensed teaching staff? Steven Dellinger-Pate stated that Doty currently has under 10.
Mckalyn Leclerc: If counseling and nursing are prorated, and then it is up to the school whether to go beyond the prorated, why would we not consider the same model with principals at each school? Steven Dellinger Pate indicated that all of the principals are considered full-time, at least for the school year. Some are year-round. In schools that have less than 10 licensed teaching staff, we can consider a part-time principal position. He noted that a part-time principal would mean that the principal would not be present in the school building all day, every student day. Some discussion followed around assistant principal position.
Elizabeth Brown spoke about the behavior specialist and the role in MTSS. She would like to know how principals are managing behaviors in the school when they go beyond the classroom, and who is offering that level of support? She spoke about the mental health needs and social/ emotional needs of students. Would be helpful for the board to understand how we provide behavioral interventions across the district. When we do not have the staff to deliver those services, how do we provide them? Elizabeth Brown stated that behavior is an important factor in schools. Chris McVeigh asked, was there a system put into place last year to cover gaps in nursing services? Steven Dellinger-Pate will prepare an answer in writing.

4. Reports

4.1. Superintendent/Central Office Leadership Team (COLT) Report: Superintendent Dellinger-Pate had provided a written report. Principals shared highlights from their reports.

4.1.1. Early Education Task Force Update

4.2. Principal Report

4.3. Student Report: Lei DeGroot, Elise and Kathryn shared student news from the start of the school year.

4.4. Configuration Committee Update: Flor Diaz Smith provided an update from the Configuration Committee today. She shared the criteria table that was agreed upon by the committee. The committee will consider models at the next meeting. Patrick Whelley asked what is meant specifically by "consistency" in the context of the committee discussion. Kealy Sloan shared that it was a part of the discussion around multi-grade classrooms and the importance of consistency over the years, in other words, not to move from a 1-2 classroom one day to a 2-3 the following.

4.5. Community Schools Report: Bec Dezan had provided a written report.

4.6. Central Vermont Career Center Report: Patrick Whelley shared some highlights from the CVCC - he noted that they are preparing for a bond vote for the new facility.

4.7. VSBA Report: Flor Diaz Smith shared that VSBA has provided a webinar and she invited board members to access it.

5. Board Operations

5.1. Budget Development Timeline & Priorities: Patrick Whelley moved to accept the Budget Development Timeline. Seconded by Amelia Contrada. Discussion: Chris McVeigh asked whether we are approving parameters at this time. No, not at this time. **This motion carried unanimously.**

5.2. Board Legislative Input

5.3. Act 73: Sue Ceglowski, Executive Director of VSBA, provided a presentation explaining Act 73. She shared a slide deck: *Act 73 of 2025, September 17, 2025.*

5.3.1. Board Q&A: Zach Sullivan asked for specifics around determining inflation. Patrick Whelley asked for specifics around class size minimum criteria - what is meant by "average" class size? Is this by building, by district, over the years? Patrick Whelley asked whether there are class size minimums for CTEs. Chris McVeigh asked for further clarification around determining inflation in the foundation formula. Flor Diaz Smith thanked Sue Ceglowski for the information she had provided.

5.4. Proposed Resolution: Margaret MacLean of the Rural Schools Alliance spoke to the board to explain some of the topics that the Rural Schools Alliance is currently addressing and sharing. She spoke about the difference between supervisory unions and supervisory districts, as per Act 73 task force. Chris McVeigh would like to express our preference to the task force for a supervisory union under Act 73, versus supervisory district. Patrick Whelley moved to accept the resolution that Chris McVeigh had provided in writing re: WCUUSD supervisory union. Seconded by Mckalyn Leclerc. Discussion: Patrick Whelley proposed a friendly amendment to the verbiage of the resolution: final sentence "our purpose is to achieve excellent education outcomes for our…. And to finish with cost savings." Chris McVeigh seconded/ accepted this amendment. The resolution as amended reads: *The Washington Central Unified Union School District moves to join a supervisory union within a larger governance region, to the extent practical, under the terms of H.454 (now Act 73) as approved on June 16, 2025, by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the State of Vermont and signed into law by the Governor on July 1. The Washington Central Unified Union School District will submit our statement of intent to the new Redistricting Task Force and will work with the SU board to reach out to contiguous school districts to explore combining into a larger supervisory union. Our purpose is to achieve excellent educational outcomes for our communities' children and youth at a cost, Vermonters can afford, to optimize cost savings and efficiencies where possible while maintaining local democratic engagement, oversight, and accountability.* Discussion: Zach Sullivan stated that he does not believe that proposing supervisory union is the right course. He spoke about equal representation for towns in the context of supervisory union and supervisory district. Elise O'Brien asked what communication with state representatives had looked like and what led him to reach this standpoint. Superintendent Dellinger-Pate will provide an update to the student representatives. **Ursula Stanley called a vote on the amendment to the motion. This carried unanimously.**

Mckalyn Leclerc asked for clarification around the statement that it would be very complicated to merge with Montpelier. Superintendent Dellinger-Pate shared the different scenarios between supervisory union and supervisory district. Chris McVeigh stated that if we go to supervisory district then our ability to directly affect the students in our communities is diminished. Zach Sullivan stated that he hears many people in East Montpelier feel that this board is far from them now. He believes we should recognize that in Act 73 the legislature has recognized the need to go to a more representative governance. Mckalyn Leclerc stated that as a Worcester representative she feels that she represents all of the students and voters in WCUUSD. Is there a process in which we can submit a proposal to form a specific district, naming specific towns with which to merge? Flor Diaz Smith stated that there is a process to provide public input with a due date in October 2025. Flor Diaz Smith stated that we do not know how the governance model will work in concert with the foundation formula. The option exists to simply make a request to stay as we are. Patrick Whelley indicated that a supervisory union provides more of a local voice than supervisory district. She asked for a role call vote from the board, for the amended motion.
Mckalyn Leclerc: abstain
Patrick Whelley: yes
Chris McVeigh: yes
Ursula Stanley: no
Julia Hewitt: yes
Zach Sullivan: no
Kealy Sloan: no
Elizabeth Brown: no
Amelia Contrada: no
Michelle Ksepka: no
This motion did not pass.

5.5. Affirm Policy 25-26 Work plan: Ursula Stanley moved to affirm the Policy 25-26 Work plan. Seconded by Kealy Sloan, this motion carried unanimously.

5.6. Appoint Board Member PROXY for VSBA Annual Meeting: Michelle Ksepka moved to appoint Ursula Stanley as Proxy for the VSBA Annual Meeting. Seconded by Amelia Contrada, this motion carried unanimously.

5.7. Adopt Board Norms: Ursula Stanley moved to adopt the board norms as presented in the board packet. Seconded by Amelia Contrada, this motion carried unanimously.

6. **Policy:** The following policies are first readings. Chris McVeigh stated that the Flag Raising draft that was shared did not reflect the changes that had been suggested. Superintendent Dellinger-Pate reviewed the change in an update draft.

6.1. First Readings

6.1.1. F5 Behavior Threat Assessment Teams: Ursula Stanley moved to approve F5: Behavior Threat Assessment Teams. Seconded by Amelia Contrada- this motion carried unanimously. The board approved this policy at first reading because it is required to be in place by October 1, 2025. The board will revisit and affirm this policy at a future board meeting to follow the practice of more than one reading.

6.1.2. C47 Student Exchange

6.1.3. C70 Use of Restraint and Seclusion

6.1.4.F46 Flag Raising: (please note some edits were made to the version of this policy that had been included in the packet)

7. **Finance Committee**
   - **7.1. Approve Combined FY 26 Capital Improvement Project Scope & Budget: Ursula Stanley moved to authorize the completion of the recommended projects as identified above (in document provided) for an amount not to exceed $1,226,901 and approve the District moving forward with bid document preparation and bidding as necessary. Seconded by Zach Sullivan, this motion carried unanimously.**

8. **Personnel**
   - **8.1. Approve New Teachers, Resignations, Leave of Absence, and Changes in FTE: Zach Sullivan moved to approve the hire of Betsy Vanderlip, special educator. Seconded by Amelia Contrada, this motion carried unanimously.**

9. **Consent Agenda**
   - **9.1. Approve Minutes of 9.3.25: Kealy Sloan moved to approve the minutes of September 3, 2025. Seconded by Patrick Whelley, this motion carried unanimously.**
   - **9.2. Board Orders: Ursula Stanley moved to approve board orders dated 8-21-25 through 9-17-25, and 8-14-25, for $1,428,673.72. Seconded by Michelle Ksepka, this motion carried unanimously.**

10. **Future Agenda Items:** Mckalyn Leclerc would like to get some information at a future board meeting about changes in scheduling at U-32. This will be included in the Superintendent's report; Flor Diaz Smith also suggested that people who have questions about this could contact the principal directly. Board members reviewed agendas/ items for future board meetings.

11. **Board Reflections:** Elizabeth Brown asked for guidance from the board about what to highlight for FPF communications. Flor Diaz Smith suggested Configuration Committee work. Patrick Whelley suggested previewing info about Act 73 and inviting the community to the forum(s) planned in the future. Kealy Sloan suggested sharing about the bond vote for the Career Center. Also, to preview that budget season is upon us.

12. **Public Comments: Time limit strictly enforced, see note:** Lila Richardson expressed her surprise with the board's handling the resolution vote tonight. Her understanding was that the board would not vote on this until October 8. She feels that this interfered with the opportunity for public comment. She stated that meeting packets should identify the source of the documents.

13. **Adjourn: At 8:55, Michelle Ksepka moved to adjourn. Seconded by Kealy Sloan, this motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Grace, Board Recording Secretary