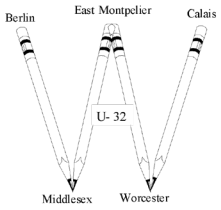
Washington Central Unified Union School District

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 Board Meeting
10.8.25
6:15-9:15 PM
(In-Person & Virtual)
East Montpelier Elementary Gymnasium
665 Vincent Flats Rd.
East Montpelier, VT

Virtual Meeting Information
https://tinyurl.com/jpdr2eh3
Meeting ID: 814 4689 7166
Password: 672065
Dial by Your Location: 1-929-205-6099

1. Call To Order

2. Welcome — 5 minutes
   2.1. Adjustments to The Agenda
   2.2. Reception of Guests

3. Community Meeting (Public Input, Q&A): — 90 minutes
   3.1. Career Center (Jody Emerson) – pg. 3
   3.2. Act 73 – pg. 26

4. Board Operations (Discussion/Action) — 30 minutes
   4.1. Debrief Community Input

5. Personnel (Discussion/Action) — 5 minutes
   5.1. Approve New Teachers, Resignations, Leave of Absence, and Changes in FTE –

6. Consent Agenda (Discussion/Action) — 5 minutes
   6.1. Approve Minutes of 9.17.25, 9.22.25 – pg. 29

7. Future Agenda Items — 5 minutes

8. Board Reflections — 10 minutes

9. Public Comments: Time limit strictly enforced, see note — 15 minutes

10. Adjourn

NOTE: To ensure the board has time to conduct its business, the board will adhere to a strict 1.5 minute public comment time limit per person. Microphones will be muted when time is up. If there is not enough time on the agenda for all members of the public wishing to comment at the beginning of the meeting, there is additional public comment at the end of the meeting.

WCUUSD Board Norms - Adopted 9.17.25

- **Public input** –Notify the community about public forums and opportunities for public comment at board meetings, and the ability to always submit written input.
- **Community involvement during regular meetings of the board** – Every meeting will include at least one opportunity for public comment. Public comment is an opportunity for board members to listen. If a board member feels a concern raised in public comment warrants further board discussion, they may request that the steering committee discuss and decide how the issue should be added to a future agenda.
- **Community dialogue** – The board will periodically schedule community forums that allow for dialogue, questions and answers from the board or the district leadership team.
- **Stay on time** – Start and end on time. The chair may appoint a time-keeper.
- **Inclusive time for thoughtful decisions** - The chair and agenda steering committee will plan time for complex or contentious issues to be discussed at more than one meeting before the board votes, except where a decision is urgent.
- **Prepare for meetings and Receive materials in advance**-Board members come prepared, having reviewed the agenda and materials in advance
- **Announcements in reports** – Announcements from the administration will appear in the reports and not as discussion items.
- **Respect each other** – Listen, allow others to be heard, share concerns, assume positive intentions, be present, focus on shared solutions and celebrate successes.
- **All voices will be heard**- Every board member gets a chance to speak. Some topics warrant having each board member speak in turn to ensure full representation. Board members will address the topics up for debate and not the person.
- **Governance Reflection** - At the end of each board meeting, reflect on whether the board adhered to agreed protocols, processes, and policies.
- **Reflection** –At the end of each board meeting, board members will be allowed time to share their general reflections on the meeting..

AGENDA KEY

Agenda Section	Examples	Role/ Responsibility	Description
Call to Order	n/a	Board Chair or designee	Formal opening to meeting. Superintendent calls to order during annual reorganization
Public Comment			Opportunity for public comment on items not on the agenda. Board will adhere to a strict 1.5 minute public comment time limit per person. Microphones will be muted when time is up. If there is not enough time on the agenda for all members of the public wishing to comment at the beginning of the meeting, there is additional public comment at the end of the meeting.
Executive Session	Personnel Student Matter Negotiations		Only for discussion of items covered in VSA §313. Formal actions not taken in Executive Session
Reports to the Board	Superintendent/ COLT Student Report	Administration	Both regular/recurring reports and one-time reports happen here. One-time reports are determined by the Board workplan or requested by the will of the Board. Generally, reports invite clarifying questions but not formal discussion/action
Committee Reports	Finance Policy Education Quality	Board	Chair of the committee reports on substance of most recent committee meeting. Generally, reports invite clarifying questions; any discussion or action items would be listed in the respective section of the agenda
Discussion Items		Board with input from administration	Items on the agenda specifically for discussion of the Board. Chair can seek input from audience during discussions. Generally not intended for action (although nothing prevents the Board from taking an action)
Action Items	Personnel approvals	Board	Items formally on the agenda for Board action. Discussion can occur after a motion is on the table
Consent Agenda	Board Orders Minutes	Board	Designed for items that need proforma approval and/or are sufficiently routine. Board acts on all items in the Consent agenda and does not discuss any item unless it is pulled out during Agenda Adjustments



BUILDING VERMONT'S FUTURE

REIMAGINING CAREER EDUCATION IN CENTRAL VERMONT

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

- Expands Access → doubles student capacity (450–500 students)
- Industry Standard Labs & Workshops → aligned with healthcare, trades, IT, and manufacturing needs
- Local Workforce Growth → helps students stay in Vermont and power our economy
- Community Investment → stronger schools, stronger economy, stronger property values

WHATS NEXT?

📅 Bond Vote: November 4, 2025
🗳️ Residents of all 18 towns will decide with a simple majority of all votes.

CVCCSD Facilities Project Costs At A Glance

📌 **Project Cost**

- $149 million total (construction + contingencies)

📌 **Operating Budget**

- Current: $5.1M (FY26)
- Increase: +$3.1M (phased in)
- $500k facilities fee shifted to new center

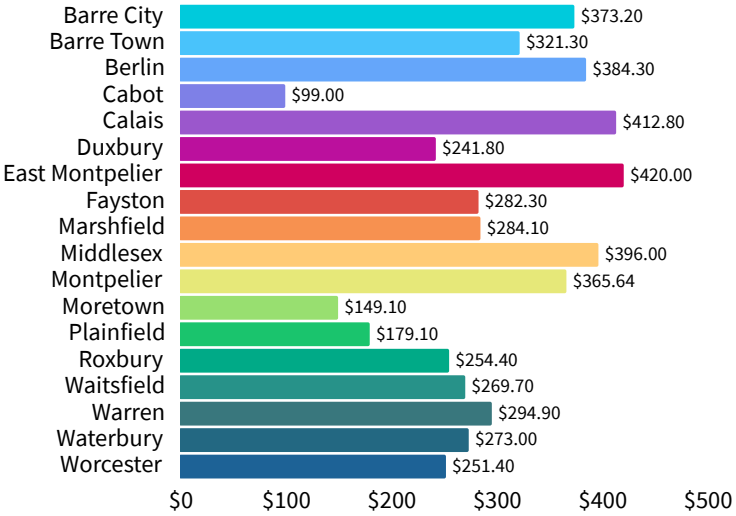
📌 **Bond Financing**

- 30-year bond
- Avg. repayment: $9.4M/year
- Paid through tuition billed to sending schools
- Shared across 18 towns

📌 **Tax Impact**

- Based on a $300,000 home
- Varies by town
- Income sensitivity may reduce costs for many households

Breakdown by Town



LEARN MORE AT:
WWW.CVTCC.ORG/FUTURE



VOTE NOVEMBER 4!

Build Skills.
Build Communities.
Build Vermont.

CENTRAL VERMONT CAREER CENTER

Education that works.

VOTE NOVEMBER 4!

LEARN MORE AT CVTCC.ORG/FUTURE

Paid for by the Central Vermont Career Center School District





An Investment in Vermont's Future

Student & Workforce Benefits

Expanded Student Access & Equity

- Eliminates turning away 150+ students annually due to space limits.
- Provides equitable access for all 18 member towns.
- Supports both college-bound and career-bound students, broadening postsecondary opportunities.

Enhanced Student Engagement

- Inspires students with modern, motivating learning spaces.
- Creates hands-on, applied learning opportunities that improve retention and career readiness.
- Signals to students that their education and future careers are valued and relevant.

Resilient Career Pathways

- Prepares students for essential jobs that will remain in demand despite automation and AI.
- Builds career pathways that allow graduates to earn, own homes, and remain invested in Vermont communities.

Modernized, Industry-Standard Facilities

- Provides labs, workshops, and classrooms reflecting real-world conditions.
- Ensures students train on up-to-date equipment, preparing them for the workforce.
- Enhances safety standards and offers flexible learning spaces adaptable to evolving career pathways.

Workforce Development & Economic Growth

- Aligns student training with Vermont's most critical workforce needs: healthcare, construction, IT, trades, and manufacturing.
- Creates a reliable pipeline of skilled workers, addressing persistent labor shortages.
- Strengthens the regional economy by keeping graduates local—96% of CVCC students remain in Vermont.
- Prepares students for resilient, essential careers that AI cannot replace—plumbers, electricians, EMTs, and other skilled trades.

Long-Term Regional Transformation

- Positions Central Vermont to turn around economic challenges, strengthen local industries, and secure the future for students, families, and employers.
- Enhances the region's overall competitiveness and attractiveness for future generations.

Community and Regional Impact

- Supports local employers with a steady stream of work-ready graduates.
- Keeps young people in Central Vermont by connecting them to meaningful local careers.
- Strengthens communities by maintaining families, homes, and generational roots in the region.

Constructive, Forward-Looking Project

- Unlike other public expenditures, this is a constructive investment that builds opportunity rather than creating burdens.
- Enhances the fiber of our communities, improving long-term economic and social vitality.

Urgent Opportunity

- This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity; failure to act risks fragmentation of the project and missed benefits.
- November's vote is pivotal—voters can secure the full vision rather than smaller, less effective alternatives.

Community & Economic Benefits

Re-Envisioning: CENTRAL VERMONT CAREER CENTER

CENTRAL VERMONT CAREER CENTER



Project Update
October 2025

LAVALLEE|BRENSINGER ARCHITECTS

truexcullins txc
ARCHITECTURE + INTERIOR DESIGN

1 WHY A NEW CTE CENTER?

CENTRAL VERMONT CAREER CENTER

Vision: CVCC's state of the art facility serves all eligible students in our region, staffed and resourced appropriately.

- **Expanded capacity** for increased enrollment versus applicant percentage;
- **Increased academic achievement** through full day programming in a full school day schedule;
- **Pathways** to advanced career credentials;
- **Strengthening partnerships** with middle schools across the region to improve student access and eliminate barriers to participation

1

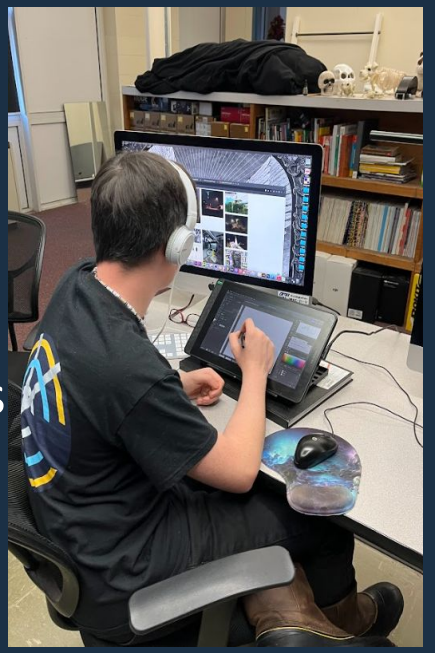
WHY A NEW CTE CENTER?

ADMISSIONS DATA

CENTRAL VERMONT CAREER CENTER

We have seen an **overall increase in applications** and due to current capacity, turn away a significant number of students.

- FY26 Applicants 443 (414 individual applicants), Accepted 228
- FY 25 Applicants 424 (397 individual applicants), Accepted 223
- FY 24 Applicants 400, Accepted 208 (1st year new process
- FY 23 Applicants 344, Accepted 219
- FY 22 Applicants 318, Accepted 179
- FY 21 Applicants 202, Accepted 134



LAVALLEE|BRENSINGER ARCHITECTS

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1 SITE SEARCH

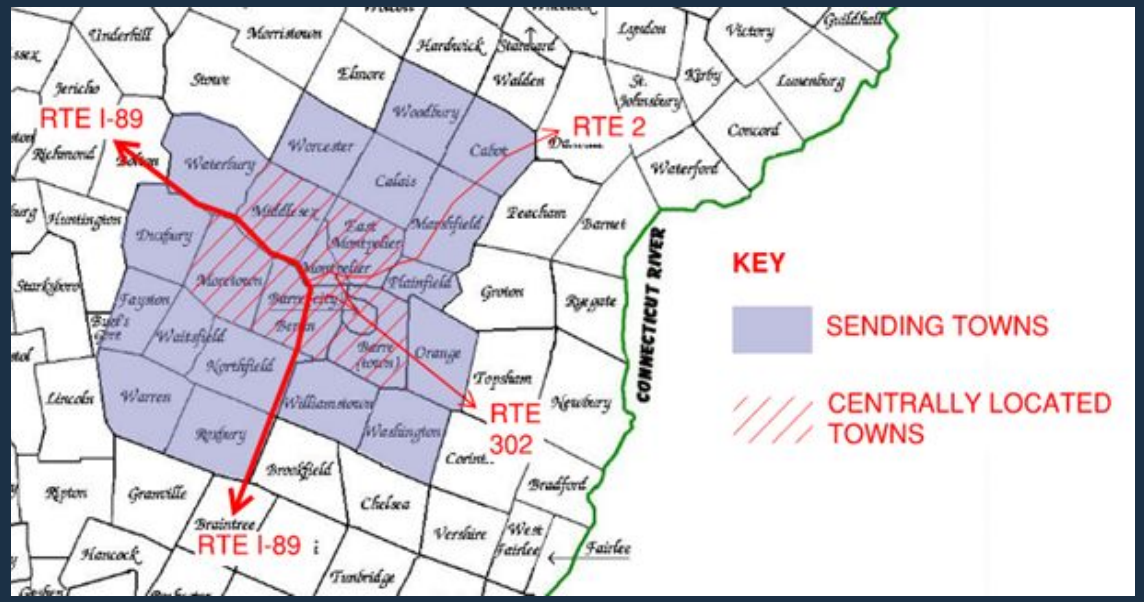
SITE SELECTION

CENTRAL VERMONT CAREER CENTER

SELECTION CRITERIA

1. Centrally located (Barre City, Barre Town, Berlin, East Montpelier, Moretown, Middlesex)
2. 20 acres minimum
3. Municipal sewer nearby
4. Municipal water nearby
5. 3-phase electrical power nearby
6. Paved road nearby
7. 20 acres developable
8. Reasonable proportions

nearby = within ¼ mile



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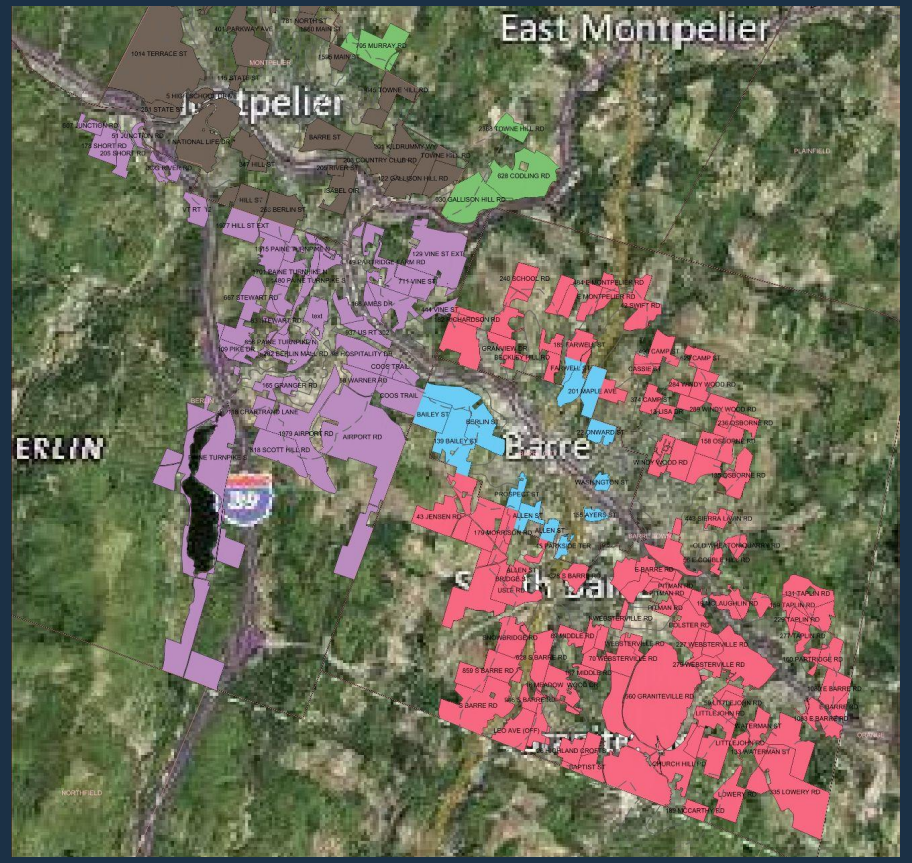
1 SITE SELECTION

SITE SEARCH

CENTRAL VERMONT CAREER CENTER

SELECTION CRITERIA

- 193 sites meet criteria 1 - 3
- 33 sites meet criteria 1 - 7
- 16 sites meet criteria 1 - 7 once "nearby" is removed
- EV recommends 10 top sites
- Facility committee selects 7 sites that meet criteria 1 - 8



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2

SITE DESIGN

LOCATION PLAN

CENTRAL VERMONT CAREER CENTER



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3

RENDERINGS

EXTERIOR IMAGES

CENTRAL VERMONT CAREER CENTER



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3

RENDERINGS

EXTERIOR IMAGES

CENTRAL VERMONT CAREER CENTER



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3

RENDERINGS

INTERIOR IMAGES

CENTRAL VERMONT CAREER CENTER



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3

RENDERINGS

INTERIOR IMAGES

CENTRAL VERMONT CAREER CENTER



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4

COST IMPACTS

PROJECT COSTS

CENTRAL VERMONT CAREER CENTER

- 167,000SF
- $149M
- Includes all fees, permits, contingencies, equipment, etc

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4

COST IMPACTS

CVCC Bond Tax Estimator Notes:

CENTRAL VERMONT CAREER CENTER

All tax impact estimates are good faith estimates only.

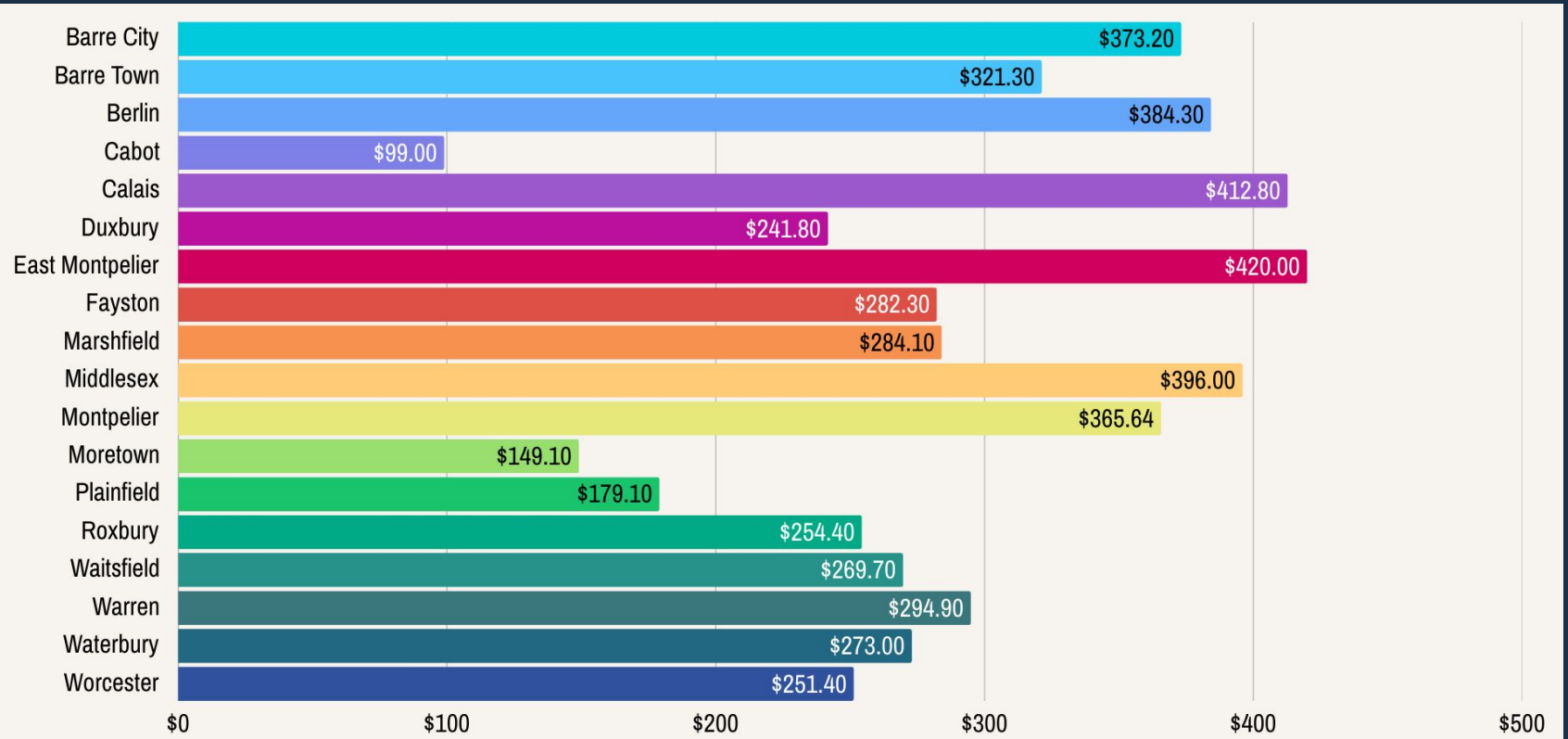
Estimates are based on FY26, which is the most recent year of data available.

Income sensitivity is not modeled: About two-thirds of Vermont households receive income-based property tax credits, which cap education taxes by income; for these households, net education taxes generally rise at the same percentage as property-based estimates (e.g., a 5% modeled increase ≈ 5% increase in net taxes).

Assumptions include enrollment stability, consistent revenues, preliminary interest rates, and amortization structure.

4 ESTIMATED TAX IMPACTS of BOND

COST IMPACTS



AVERAGE $291.78/5.8%
*based on $300,000 home

HIGHEST $ INCREASE $420
LOWEST $ INCREASE $99

HIGHEST % INCREASE 8.93%
LOWEST % INCREASE 2.62%

Updated 9/17/25 to include Worcester rate

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4

COST IMPACTS

CVCC Bond Tax Estimator Recap

CENTRAL VERMONT CAREER CENTER

Best Estimates:

- Total bond amount: $149 million
- Avg. annual repayment: $9.4M over 30 years
- Paid back through tuition (6-semester FTE)
- Costs allocated proportionally to each SD/SU
- Tax impacts are based on a $300,000 property value
- FY 26 Rates and Adjustments
- Estimated annual household tax bill increases range:
  - Low: $99
  - High: $420

What Remains Uncertain:

- Future education spending levels
- Pupil counts & enrollment trends
- Yield & CLA adjustments
- Final interest rates & amortization structure
- Impact of income sensitivity for households

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4

COST IMPACTS

CVCC Additional Annual Costs

CENTRAL VERMONT CAREER CENTER

FY26 Operating Budget: $5.1 Million

Projected increase in the new facility: +3.1M (phased in gradually)

- Annual $500k facility fee to BUUSD would be redirected to new center
- Normal yearly increases will continue (salaries, benefits, supply costs, tariffs)

Expanded programming adds $27-$166 per household

- Average additional cost: $80 per household

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5

INVESTMENT

Benefits

CENTRAL VERMONT CAREER CENTER

Student Impact

- Improves outcomes for all students
- Especially benefits historically marginalized populations
- Expands access to diverse career pathways

Education & Workforce

- Boosts high school graduation rates
- Increases early-career earnings
- Expands access to diverse career pathways

5

INVESTMENT

Benefits

CENTRAL VERMONT CAREER CENTER

Public Investment

- Cost-effective strategy for the region
- Long-term public benefits outweigh educational costs
- Increased tax revenue & reduced social costs

Community Impact

- Prepares students for well-paying local jobs
- Grows the tax base & attracts younger residents
- Creates a hub for industry training for students & adults

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5

INVESTMENT

Benefits

CENTRAL VERMONT CAREER CENTER

Expanding CTE is not just an education initiative—it's a strategy to strengthen our economy, support families, and build Vermont's future.

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6

NEXT STEPS

PROJECT SCHEDULE

CENTRAL VERMONT CAREER CENTER

- **Bond Vote Forum**
  - October 7, 2025
- **Bond Vote**
  - November 4, 2025 (Votes commingled November 6, 2025)
- **Building Design and Permits**
  - December 2025 to March 2027
- **Building Construction**
  - March 2027 to May 2029
- **Building Opening**
  - Sept 2029

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Dear Washington Central Community Members, Town Managers, Clerks and Selectboards,

We invite you to join us for a Community Meeting to learn more about the Career Center Bond Vote and Act 73.

We will begin with a brief Q&A about the upcoming bond vote for the Career Center. Superintendent Jody Emerson will be with us to answer questions about this important decision, which will shape opportunities for students and the future workforce of Central Vermont.

Following that, we will move into a discussion about Act 73. The Vermont Legislature, through Act 73 of 2025, has created the School District Redistricting Task Force to recommend new school district boundaries and configurations to the General Assembly. As part of this important work, the Task Force is seeking local input to better understand community perspectives, priorities, and concerns.

We invite you to share your thoughts, and discuss how potential changes might affect our schools and students. Your participation will help ensure that our district's voice is heard.

Date & Time: October 8th at 6:15 pm
Location: East Montpelier Elementary School

Discussion Topics:

* Strengths and challenges of our current school district
* Opportunities and risks of joining a larger district or collaborating with neighbors.
* Data or resources needed to support strong student outcomes
* Community priorities and concerns around potential redistricting
* Ideas for partnerships or consolidation that could expand opportunities for students

This conversation will help inform the School Board as we give input to the Task Force's recommendations. The Task Force will receive our input but it will not determine final decisions. Your insight is valuable to shaping the future of education in Vermont.

We hope to see you there and hear your perspective.

Respectfully,
Steven Dellinger Pate, Superintendent and Flor Diaz Smith, Board Chair

Contact Author

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

Steven Dellinger-Pate
Superintendent

Dear Community Members,

On July 1, Governor Scott signed into law Act 73, An Act Relating to Transforming Vermont's Education Governance, Quality, and Finance Systems.

The law is fundamentally changing the state's education system by restructuring funding and governance. We are providing this summary of the law so that interested residents can stay informed. The JFO summary provides information about Act 73.

The Act 73 presentation to the school board on September 17 from VSBA:

Chronological summary of Act 73 by effective date:

School Choice & Independent Schools: Tuition to approved independent schools will be limited to those located in Vermont, among other new requirements. This section requires districts to continue to pay tuition on behalf of resident students enrolled for the 2024–2025 school year and those who have been accepted by approved independent schools for the 2025–2026 school year, until they graduate from those schools. This took effect on July 1, 2025.

The law creates class size minimums that start in the 2026-2027 school year, and vary by grade level. For grades 1-8, class size minimums are 10-15 students. Currently, the WCUUSD class size procedures have minimums above the Act 73 requirements.

School District Consolidation: A significant reduction in the number of school districts from the current 100+ school districts and 50+ supervisory unions/districts will occur. A task force will suggest up to three new district maps by December 1, 2025, for lawmakers to review in January 2026. Each new district will serve 4,000–8,000 Pre-K–12 students. As of September 30, WCUUSD currently has 581 students enrolled at our elementary schools and 676 at U-32 Middle and High School for a total of approximately 1257 students.

New district operations will start on July 1, 2028.

Property Tax Reform:

Act 73 replaces the current statewide education property tax credit with a homestead property tax exemption based on income. Homeowners with an annual household income of $115,000 or less will be allowed to exempt a portion, 90% to 10%, of their house site value up to $425,000 from their property taxes. A new property tax classification, "non-homestead residential," is meant to ensure that second homes are taxed at a higher rate than businesses and apartment rentals.

The section takes effect on July 1, 2028.

Education Funding:

The law transitions education funding to a foundation formula. The state will provide districts a base amount per student, adjusted annually for inflation, with additional weights for special education, English language learners, economically disadvantaged, etc. Town Meeting Day 2027 will be the last time WCUUSD residents will vote on a school budget. This section takes effect on July 1, 2028, PROVIDED that new school districts approved by the legislature in 2026 have begun operating.

We know these changes are big, and we have highlighted above only a few of the major ones. If you have any questions or want to learn more, please do not hesitate to reach out. We will continue to share updates as they are available and we will continue to advocate for our communities.

Respectfully,

Steven Dellinger-Pate
Superintendent

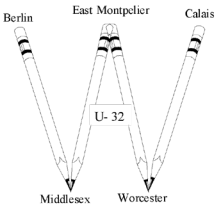
On behalf of the Board

Flor Diaz Smith
School Board Chair

Washington Central Unified Union School District

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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

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
9.22.25
5:00 PM
Special School Board Meeting
(Virtual via Zoom)

Present: Board: Flor Diaz-Smith, Ursula Stanley, Michelle Kspeka, Julia Hewitt, Chris McVeigh, Daniel Keeney, Kealy Sloan, Diane Nichols-Fleming, Mckalyn Leclerc, Zach Sullivan, Elizabeth Brown, Patrick Whelley

Others: Family and Student, Steven Dellinger-Pate (Superintendent), Michael Sherwin (PBIS and Behavior Coach), and Alicia Lyford (Principal)

1. **Call to Order: Flor Diaz-Smith called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.**

2. **Executive Session: Diane Nichols-Fleming moved that the Board enter into executive session for the purpose of considering matters related to the academic records or discipline of students as authorized by 21 V.S.A. Section 313(a)(7) to include the family and student, Steven Dellinger-Pate (Superintendent), Michael Sherwin (PBIS and Behavior Coach), and Alicia Lyford (Principal). Seconded by Chris McVeigh. The motion carried.**

3. **Patrick Whelley moved to come out of the Executive Session. Seconded by Kealy Sloan. Diane Nichols-Fleming moved to affirm the administration's recommendation. Seconded by Daniel Keeney.** Votes in favor: 11 (One board member had to leave during deliberation; she was in favor of the recommendation). **Diane Nichols-Fleming moved to adjourn at 5:32 pm. Seconded by Ursula Stanley. The motion passed unanimously.**