

# 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  
10.15.25  
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, Patrick Whelley, Ursula Stanley, Kealy Sloan, Mckalyn Leclerc, Elizabeth Brown, Michelle Ksepka, Jen Miller Arsenault, Alicia Lyford, Zach Sullivan, Jarrod Weiss, Karoline May, Julia Hewitt, Lei DeGroot, Alicia Lyford, Allison Fayle, Honi Bean Barrett, Andy Shapiro, Caitlin Howansky, Ellen Knoedler, Lauren Chabot, Lila Richardson, Lisa Hanna, Marilyn Martin, Michael Sherwin, Noah Weinstein, Sophia Emigh, Susan DeForge, Susanne Gann, Celia G, Jen Miller Arsenault, Julia Pritchard, Becca Tatistcheff, Gillan Fuqua, Kim Bolduc, Heather Clark-Warner, Matt DeGroot, Dawn Dumas, Michelle Ksepka, Giuliana Jensen, Julie Wood, Dell Waterhouse, April Davis, Becca Webb, Kristy, Callie Weller,

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

2. **Welcome**

**2.1. Adjustments to The Agenda:** Flor Diaz Smith requested an adjustment to have Executive Session at the end of the meeting for a personnel issue. **Motion to accept this adjustment made by Ursula Stanley, seconded by Zach Sullivan, carried unanimously.**

**2.2. Reception of Guests:** Flor Diaz Smith acknowledged board members who are present online tonight and welcomed all present.

**2.3. Public Comments-Time limit strictly enforced, see note:** Lauren Chabot thanked the administration for planning the field day that occurred earlier this month; she stated that it was a wonderful opportunity for students to come together, and she shared that her children were very excited about the opportunity.

**3. Presentations: Pre-K:** Stephen Dellinger-Pate thanked and introduced the members of this committee and introduced the memorandum: *Program Recommendations for Universal Preschool*.

**3.1. Public Q&A:** Julie Wood asked about the proposed enrollment at EMES for preschool students. She stated that it would be disappointing if the proposal indicates that we would offer preschool to a lesser number of preschool students at East Montpelier. She stated that there is a great need in the East Montpelier community.

Flor Diaz Smith invited questions from the board:

Ursula Stanley: This would increase the number of hours that we offer preschool within our district. Yes. How would this affect other preschool students that are attending preschools outside of our district? They would be provided the hours that are allowed via Act 166 but not the additional that are offered within our district.

Zach Sullivan: Has there been thought about extending hours beyond the proposal, to meet the needs of parents for additional childcare and preschool opportunities?

Mckalyn Leclerc: Is there preference for spots etc., if a town within WCUUSD does not have a preschool program in their town, will their residents be given the option for preschool enrollment? Stephen Dellinger-Pate: yes

Chris McVeigh: What are additional costs, estimated? Stephen Dellinger-Pate: increase by approximately 2.5 FTE. Community Connections already has employees that might be part of the programming. Integrating more fully with the staff, CC and preschool program.

Julie Wood: Noted that school begins at 8:45 a.m. (not 9 a.m.)

Lei DeGroot: Will it be clear to voters that this increase in the budget is due to the preschool program? Stephen Dellinger-Pate: yes, this will be clearly explained to the board in budget consideration.

Flor Diaz Smith asked board members, straw poll, if they are in support of this preschool programming proposition for budget consideration. Board members indicated support.

#### **4. Reports**

**4.1. Superintendent/Central Office Leadership Team (COLT) Report:** Julie Pritchard shared a report by the Agency of Education around special education services. She provided some highlights from the report.

- 4.2. **Principal Report:** Stephen Dellinger-Pate stated that he would like to move the Principal Reports to the other monthly board meetings that are hosted at the various sites. Celia Guggemos shared from Berlin Elementary School about social and emotional learning opportunities and building community; Gillian Fuqua shared about the field day opportunity this past month.
- 4.3. **Student Report:** Lei DeGroot shared some of the updates from U-32 and the elementary schools in WCUUSD.
- 4.4. **Humanity & Justice Coalition Update:** Jen Miller Arsenault shared that the coalition meets monthly - the purpose this year is to support the actualization of the H&J Coalition Vision statement.
- 4.5. **Configuration Committee Update:** Flor Diaz Smith shared that the Configuration Committee had met earlier today and they had taken action to bring the proposed model to the board; the committee had agreed that it would be important to focus on thoughtful language going forward, and to continue to work to grow communities together. Daniel Keeney shared that the recommended structure involves a grade 6 reconfiguration - moving 6th grade to U-32, and consolidating current 5 elementary schools to 3 sites; (Chris M clarified: Rumney and Doty together, Calais and EMES together, Pre-K - 5). The committee had agreed that “the how” and the moving forward building community will be important, and for the committee to remain engaged in the process going forward.
- 4.6. **Community Schools Report:** Bec Dezan had provided a written update to the board.
- 4.7. **Central Vermont Career Center Report:** Patrick Whelley shared that the CVCC is focused on the upcoming bond vote and the effort to outreach in the communities. He encouraged people to find information on the website or reach out with any questions.
- 4.8. **VSBA Report:** Flor Diaz Smith provided a brief overview of the work of VSBA.

## 5. Board Operations

- 5.1. **Vote on Teacher Supervision and Evaluation Process:** Ursula Stanley moved to table this. Seconded by Chris McVeigh, this motion carried unanimously.
- 5.2. **VSBA Resolutions:** Michelle Ksepka moved to approve the VSBA resolutions as a slate. Seconded by Zach Sullivan. Discussion: Chris McVeigh does not support proposals 8, 9, 10, 11- he would like to vote in favor rather than “take no position.” He would like to amend the motion to remove proposals 8 through 11 from the slate and vote on them separately. This amendment was voted and passed. The board voted on the amended motion (to approve VSBA resolutions, as presented, minus proposals 8, 9, 10, 11, as a slate. This vote carried. **Resolution 8:** Chris McVeigh moved to approve resolution 8. Ursula Stanley seconded. Discussion: Ursula Stanley stated that in her opinion, this is covered in Resolution 7; this is repetitive. Mckalyn Leclerc stated that she feels Resolution 8 is more specific. A vote was called. **Seven in favor; four opposed; this motion carried. Resolution 9:** Chris McVeigh

**moved to approve resolution 9. Ursula Stanley seconded.** Discussion: Ursula Stanley stated again, this is repetitive. Mckalyn Leclerc agreed that, upon passing Resolution 8, Resolution 9 is redundant. Patrick Whelley asked for clarification: these represent two different school district groups. Yes. He feels it is worth voting in favor. **Chris McVeigh moved to amend his motion to present Resolution 9, 10 and 11 as a slate. Flor Diaz Smith suggested that he withdraw his previous motion. He did so; seconded by Ursula Stanley; this carried. Chris McVeigh moved to approve resolutions 9, 10 and 11 as a slate, to pass (as opposed to take no action). Seconded by Ursula Stanley.** Discussion: Patrick Whelley suggested that in voting all of these as “yes” we have a chance of magnifying our voice. This motion carried with seven in favor.

- 5.3. Budget Parameters/Priorities: Ursula Stanley moved to add a budget parameter: to expand Pre-K offerings in line with the Pre-K memo dated October 15, 2025. Seconded by Daniel Keeney, this motion carried. Daniel Keeney moved to accept the Budget Parameters as presented with the following 5% for Parameter 5 (as updated).with “under 5%”. Discussion: Some clarification was sought around whether 5% is clear enough for administration to work with. Ursula Stanley offered an amendment: to keep the increase in LTWADM per pupil spending less than or equal to a 5% increase. Seconded by Zach Sullivan. Discussion: Stephen Dellinger-Pate provided an explanation of this difference. This motion to amend carried, with one vote of “nay.” Chris McVeigh asked Susanne Gann to bring information for the board’s consideration, about the increase in health care expense, as a percentage. Daniel Keeney moved; Ursula Stanley seconded to accept the budget parameters as presented, with the following: to keep the increase in LTWADM per pupil spending less than or equal to a 5% increase. This motion carried unanimously.**
- 5.4. Legislative Debrief:** Flor Diaz Smith reviewed the notes in the packet, which reflected the previous board meeting and public forum. She suggested that we might provide a summary from the meeting including the study regarding the Montpelier School district, and share with the Task Force.

## 6. Policy

### 6.1. First Readings

#### 6.1.1.C15 Student Conduct and Discipline

#### 6.1.2.C45 Bus Discipline

**6.1.3.D8 Selection of Library Materials (this is going to replace D22):** Dan Keeney asked for some clarification in the policies, for example “at the discretion of administration” in the discipline policy. He also noted that the bus discipline policy is silent about an additional adult on the bus to provide support/ bus monitor.

Elizabeth Brown asked about students who might be asked not to ride the bus due to a disability that might affect bus behavior. Some discussion followed around manifestation determination and protections under IEPs and IDEA rules. These policies will come to the board for second reading at the next meeting.

**6.1.4. Second Readings: Chris McVeigh moved to approve as a slate the following policies: F5, C47, C70, and F46. Seconded by Mckalyn Leclerc, this motion carried unanimously.**

**6.1.4.1. Affirm F5 Behavior Threat Assessment**

**6.1.4.2. C47 Student Exchange**

**6.1.4.3. C70 Use of Restraint & Seclusion (the law is referenced in this policy).**

**6.1.4.4. F46 Flag Raising**

## **7. Finance Committee**

**7.1. FY 2026-27 Budget Development Update:** Stephen Dellinger-Pate had shared a written update prepared by himself and Susanne Gann. He invited questions or feedback from the board.

## **8. Personnel**

**8.1. Approve New Teachers, Resignations, Leave of Absence, and Changes in FTE :**  
(none tonight)

**8.2. IT Staffing Restructure: Ursula Stanley moved to approve the creation of a Network/ Infrastructure Specialist and a Network Security Specialist position to replace two of the current Network Administrator / Tech Support positions. Seconded by Zach Sullivan.** Diane Nichols-Fleming asked whether this would result in an increase in budgeting. Stephen Dellinger-Pate and Susanne Gann shared that this is not a creation of a new position; it is a restructuring of the department; any increases will be inflationary; though Susanne Gann shared that one will fill a vacant position and the incoming salary is not known. **This motion carried unanimously.**

## **9. Consent Agenda**

**9.1. Approve Minutes of 10.8.25: Elizabeth Brown moved to approve the minutes of October 8, 2025. Seconded by Mckalyn Leclerc, this motion carried unanimously.**

**9.2. Board Orders: Elizabeth Brown moved to approve the board orders dated September 11 through October 15, 2025, for \$943,298.04. Seconded by Mckalyn Leclerc, this motion carried unanimously.**

**10. Future Agenda Items**

- 10.1. Configuration model
- 10.2. Survey for budget priorities
- 10.3. Summary document for Task Force

**11. Board Reflections:** Elizabeth Brown reminded the board to select three things for the Communications Committee to share: Work of configuration committee; budget parameters; Pre-K configuration

**12. Public Comments:** Time limit strictly enforced, see note: (none)

**13. Executive Session:** At 8:27, Patrick Whelley moved to go into Executive Session, to include the Superintendent, for discussing personnel. Seconded by Ursula Stanley, this motion carried unanimously. Elizabeth Brown moved to come out of Executive Session at 8:50 p.m. Seconded by Patrick Whelley. This motion carried unanimously. Diane Nichols-Fleming moved that the board approve honoring the intention to move forward with continuing a contract with the superintendent. Seconded by Mckalyn Leclerc. This motion carried unanimously.

**14. Adjourn:** Zach Sullivan moved to adjourn at 8:56 p.m. Seconded by Chris McVeigh. This motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa Grace, Board Recording Secretary  
and Diane Nichols-Fleming, Board Clerk