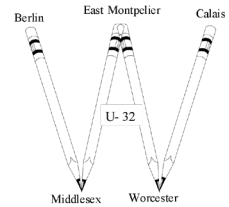


Washington Central Unified Union School District

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 Communications Committee

8.19.25

12:00-1:00 PM

(Virtual Only)

Central Office

1130 Gallison Hill Rd

Montpelier, VT

Present: Flor Diaz Smith, Julia Hewitt, Patrick Whelley, Melissa Tuller, Kealy Sloan

Others: Lila Richardson

1. **Call to Order:** Flor Diaz Smith called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.
2. **Next Agenda Points**
3. **Communication:**
 - 3.1. **Sharing Survey Results:** Flor advised that the results would be shared at the Configuration Committee and Board meeting. Jeannie Phillips will be helping to guide the conversation. We collected all the data we could. Flor stated that there were questions as to why Orca was not at all of the sites for the listening sessions, and it was because Orca did not have enough staff to send someone to each location. The raw data is linked in the configuration packet.
 - 3.2. **Timeline for the Special Vote:** Flor stated that we are working backwards, as the Budget is due January 21. If there were a special vote, it would be on January 13, and it would need to be warned on December 4 in order to be within the 30-40-day timeline. On January 21, we need to provide the budget to the clerks for the Town Meeting. Flor is letting the committee know that this is the most important information that would need to be put out for the vote.
 - 3.3. **Communicating Budget and Next Steps:** Flor advised that communicating the budget be in parallel with the timeline. She advised that this process needs to stay in line with the March vote timeline. Two budgets are being prepared. It would be helpful for the committee to work on messaging. Flor is hoping that we can mail ballots this year, and we would need volunteers to go to the select boards. Patrick stated that we need to convey that the configuration decision has not been made, and because of the timeline, we are going to draft two budgets in parallel. It was mentioned that perhaps we could create an FAQ document like last year. Flor asked for the committee's help in creating that document.

4. Board Correspondence/Emails on the Website: Flor advised that the table take a considerable amount of time. For what is out there right now, it has taken approximately 16-20 hours of Melissa's time. Flor advised this is meant for the constituents to talk to the Board. Flor asked Melissa to talk about the process. Melissa advised that she had done a time study and it takes 5 minutes per email, which does not include Flor's responses. Depending on the format that it is received in, it takes approximately 9-11 steps for one email to be posted on the board correspondence table. It is not a district requirement per open meeting law. Melissa advised she has done a considerable amount of research and there is not one other district that is posting their correspondence on their websites. Flor advised that she keeps a folder separate and she advised replying to emails takes a lot of time. Flor advised this was started for the configuration conversations but it has become much larger. Melissa advised that a lot of the information being received is similar as many of the letters received are being read at the meetings and therefore recorded on the video by Orca. Patrick asked what the question is that we are trying to solve. Julia advised that there was a shift in the way correspondence was posted and noticed that there had not been anything posted since September. Julia felt that there was a decision that was made about posting information that she did not recall. Flor clarified that we did have a discussion and the board received feedback from the community that some people did not want their emails posted as they felt others were targeting them in the community. Flor advised that from September until now there was not a lot of correspondence received. Flor asked the committee what they thought the best way to keep correspondence would be. Patrick suggested setting up a running Google Form for a specific topic, where folks could share their thoughts. Flor advised she could check with IT. There was some further discussion. Kealy spoke about it being monitored and sees it spiraling out of control unless someone is monitoring that very closely. Kealy feels that there are other ways for folks to communicate with their community. She advised people to write to the Board because they want to write to the Board and not necessarily share that with the whole community. There was some discussion about putting it in the Board packet. Patrick questioned the reason for the use of the community. Kealy suggested that if a google form was created it could possibly be linked where the Board correspondence currently is.

5. Public Comments: Public comment was received by Lila Richardson.

There was some discussion in the committee about ideas to resolve the issue. **Patrick motioned to recommend to the Board that the Board make a new email inbox that is made public before every meeting. Kealy seconded. The motion passed.**

6. Adjourn: The committee adjourned by consensus at 1:01 p.m.