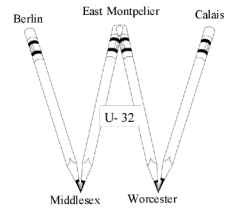


Washington Central Unified Union School District

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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**WCUUSD Finance Committee
Meeting Agenda
12.9.25
8:30-9:30 AM
Central Office
1130 Gallison Hill Rd.
Montpelier, VT**

Present: Ursula Stanley, Susanne Gann, Steven Dellinger-Pate, Zach Sullivan, Flor Diaz Smith, Daniel Keeney, Elizabeth Brown

Others: Lila Richardson

- 1. Call to Order:** Flor called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.
- 2. Approve Minutes of 11.11.25:** Ursula moved to approve the minutes of 11.11.25. Zach pointed out a typo in the first line. **Zach seconded, and the motion passed.**
- 3. Informational Reports**
 - 3.1. Monthly Reflections:** Susanne highlighted the food service department and advised they have had several harvest dinners they prepared across the district. She thanked the staff for all the work they do. Ron is working on the food service review that is due in February. A few years ago, we were reviewed and that is one of the reasons we hired the food service director position due to the findings in that review. In this review we believe we have corrected many of the issues previously found. She advised there is a Federal grant review coming up in March. They will go through our controls and processes for Federal regulations and policies. Open enrollment is in full swing, and we are getting everyone set up on new flex plans. A new company called Health Equity bought out our the company that holds our flex plan, new contributions will be set up for the first payroll in January. Several staff were sent to NEMRC training to learn about electronic filing of W-2s, 1099 filing with the IRS, closing out accounts payable, and reviewing any child care or credit contributions, the kind of work that gets done when you close out a calendar year for a business. Susanne and Steven have been focusing on the budget. Zach asked if the grant review was being done by the VT AOE or by the Federal government. Susanne advised the VT AOE.
- 4. Discussion/Action**
 - 4.1. Approve Copier Bid Award:** There were three vendors that bid; they were Symquest, Rico and National. Susanne advised we currently use Symquest and although they were not the lowest bidder, they came in within \$200.00 of the other bids. She advised that we would like to stay with Symquest as they are a known company, they are local and the service provided will be local. We are recommending to the board that we go with them for a 5-year

lease for \$73,375.66. **Ursula moved to recommend to the Board that they approve the proposed tax-exempt lease with M.S.T. Government Leasing, LLC, for the purposes of refinancing, and funding photocopy equipment leases including consultant fees, and related costs of issuances of such leases in an amount not to exceed One Hundred Ninety-Nine Thousand Three Hundred Twenty-Two dollars and Forty-Seven Cents (\$199,322.47) and an interest rate of 5.19% per year through August 1, 2030. Zach seconded.** There was some discussion. Zach asked if that full amount was for the full 5 years. Steven confirmed. Daniel asked how this relates to what we had in the budget for an estimate. Susanne advised it is a bit lower and it is almost the same amount. Daniel asked how the interest rate comes into play. Susanne advised it is the lease on the equipment and we pay one installment every year on the lease rather than a monthly installment. **The motion passed unanimously.**

- 4.2. **FY 27 Budget:** Susanne advised that they have been working on two different budgets to bring to the meeting on 12.10.25. She stated that the first one is to get us to the 5 % increase per pupil, or per LTW ADM. The second budget is prepared based on the configuration committee's recommendations around the Calais and Doty buildings. Susanne advised that this is a team effort and she and Steven have worked collaboratively with the entire administration. This will require over \$2 million in reductions. The December 1 tax letter has been received from the state, in its there is an average increase of 11.9% estimated. That comes from the FY 26 average tax rate of \$1.56 increasing to \$1.74. The letter also referred to the total Ed spending. Susanne advised they get that information by pulling business managers across the state and asking what their percentage increase is. WCUUSD provided them with the Draft 1 percentage increase. They are talking about a 5.8% increase across the state in those initial budgets that were delivered by business managers. The LTW ADM's have come in. Susanne projected 111 as a decrease, and she stated that they are on a fourth revision from them because business managers had so many questions . We are now at a decrease of 170. One of the biggest impacts is that we are not only seeing enrollment decreases, but also when you lose a student, you do not just lose that student, you lose the weight that was applied to that student. Susanne advised that her numbers were based on enrollment at the time; their numbers are based on average daily membership, which is a 20-day window, and in that window, the enrollment swung. Overall, she stated that the average per pupil spending across the state is a 6.8% increase. Susanne mentioned that there has been a concern regarding direct certification numbers, as there have not been as many as last year. Zach asked what is going on with the direct certification and if we know what the average, daily membership on the statewide total is decreasing this year? Susanne advised .91% is what it went down across the state. Steven advised that 3 years ago when we started talking about configuration and budget, we were using language like expanded opportunities, what more can we do? He advised we are no longer in a position because of the changes we are seeing in the LTW ADM to say those kinds of things. Steven stated we need to start talking about preserving programming that we currently have and this budget will not allow us to preserve current programming and still allow us to stay under the threshold. When you look at a 170-student loss to the LTW ADM that is a \$2.7 million reduction in our allocation from the state. What are the pressures on our budget? Our pressures on our budget are increased wages, increased inflation, and healthcare. Those things are creating a need for us to really dig into this budget and figure out what is happening in our schools themselves. We are trying to keep 5% increase to our per pupil which barely keeps us under the the threshold. The threshold has adjusted up a bit; it is now at \$16,470. We are using \$16,036. . He advised when we look at our schools, 5 elementary and a 7-12 school it calls for significant reductions in our programming and our ability to

deliver our MLSS systems. When we look at this as a three elementary school and a 7-12 school, we still have to look at reductions in our staffing. Some of those are a result of the reconfiguration, but right now, there is no room for our budget to increase. Budget draft 2a is a 5-elementary school model, and 2b is a 3-school model. There are still places to find cost savings but there is no room for increased spending. If someone has questions about what happens if one-town votes, then we revert to the school configurations of Draft 2A, so no matter what vote is held U-32 is not going to significantly be able to change its budget between draft 2A and 2B. That budget is currently \$1.5 million less than what we have right now. Steven spoke about some of the reductions and advised there would be a chart with all of that information at the meeting tomorrow. He also spoke about one-time expenses. Steven said they are still looking at areas where they can find cost savings, and they are not promising any expanded programming. Ursula asked if the budget drafts include materials or was there a reduction in materials? Steven advised there is a reduction in everything. He advised there is not an elimination of materials but it is different between the budget drafts because of staffing differences. Steven advised they will be sending an impact statement as well so the board will be able to see how the budget affects our staffing, by school and by district. Zach asked about the scale of reductions at the elementary schools and are we still able to maintain the per pupil weighting formula or are we taking more out of U-32 than the elementary schools at this point? Steven advised we are looking at reductions of about 20 personnel across the district. With the reconfiguration draft we are still looking of at least 15-18 reductions across the district and we are looking at all classes of personnel (teachers, administrators, ESP, etc.) Zach asked if we are still looking at expanded Pre-K or if it had been removed from the budget. Steven advised the expanded Pre-K would cost and additional \$500k to do what we had hoped to do. There is no possible way for us to do any expanded programming in this budget. There was some discussion about one-time expenses. Flor advised that we are still looking at approving the budget on January 21 and depending on what happens at the December 10 meeting a special vote will be on January 13.

5. Public Comments: None at this time

6. Future Agenda Items

6.1. **Next Regular Meeting:** January 13, 2026

7. Adjourn: the meeting adjourned by consensus at 9:23 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa Tuller
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent