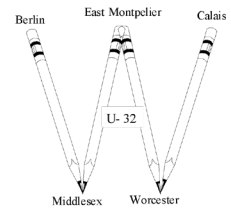


Washington Central Unified Union School District

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 District
Configuration/Communication Committee Meeting
January 16, 2026
9:00-10:00 a.m.
Central Office
1130 Gallison Hill Rd.
Montpelier, VT
(Virtual Only)**

Present: Melissa Tuller, Flor Diaz Smith, Kealy Sloan, Patrick Whelley, Anna Matheson, Deborah Bloom, Daniel Keeney, Jeanie Phillips, Marilyn Martin

- 1. Call to Order:** Flor called to order at 9:02 a.m.
- 2. Informational Sessions Scheduled and Open Houses:** Flor shared a document showing the small groups and where board members will be hosting informational meetings as a guide. She invited the group to look it over. She advised the first event is this evening. Anna, speaking as President of the Friends of Calais, stated that she felt the spaghetti dinner should be neutral and would like to have information available, but no one there to answer questions. Flor advised that she would have Ursula reach out.
- 3. Script:** Flor advised that the first event is this evening. Flor advised that Board asked for a script for these informational sessions, and this is a guiding document. She asked for questions. Flor advised these are talking points. Patrick stated he was confused as to whether she is asking people to say what is on the script or if is this a guideline for people to consider when they make comments? Flor stated that is a guideline for people to consider and the Board had asked for a script and that he can use his own tone and thinking. Patrick advised he does not like the idea of a script. Deborah Bloom said that she does not feel that the script will be able to answer the questions that community members are asking. She feels they are going to ask very specific budget questions that we are not going to be able to answer. Flor advised that we will have the expanded FAQ's that Daniel and Elizabeth worked on to help answer some of those questions. The budget will not be approved until January 21. She also advised that there will be staffing tables in the packet today, but we will not have final budget numbers. Flor advised there is a soup-a-thon in Worcester, and a potluck in Calais. There was some conversation about communicating about services and loss either way and acknowledging that. Flor advised she would include information from Gillian and Alicia. Melissa suggested that something being included from Jarrod as well. Anna spoke about language around creating new schools, not just sending kids to East Montpelier or Rumney but the fact that we are creating new schools. Deborah Bloom mentioned that U-32 is not referenced and she has gotten questions from folks from many different towns. She asked if there was something that could explain the budget

implications for U-32. There was some discussion. Jeannie Phillips stated that she has heard in many meetings that consolidation is not going to save money and that maybe that the way to frame budget conversations is to talk about that. She stated another way to look at it is to frame it around “this is the amount of money we have and this is what it looks like”. There was discussion about being consistent with the language.

4. **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ):** Flor looked at the FAQ document that Daniel had worked on and said it looked good to her. She asked Daniel to send it to Melissa to post on the website. Daniel shared the document via email. He advised there should be printed copies and he has created a link. There was some discussion about how to put the information on the website. Daniel advised that this include the old FAQ’s as well. Kealy asked about busing and how we say we are keeping travel times manageable, she asked if we could say they are similar to what we have right now, sometimes more, sometimes less. Flor stated we are keeping them manageable for elementary schools under 45 minutes. Kealy asked if there was some way to compare to what we have now. Melissa stated that Steven worked with Sue Verchereau and the bus company to get the information provided, and that without creating the actual bus routes it is hard to get the exact information. Deborah Bloom spoke about before and after care and how that may affect bus ridership.
5. **Mailer / Lawn Signs:** Flor advised that the mailer has gone to print and should be in mailboxes. The lawn signs are being printed but have not arrived yet.
6. **Front Porch Forum (FPF) Post:** Flor said there is a need for a front porch forum post for people to post that are not on the Board. Daniel stated that they reached out to people.
7. **What else (phone calls, etc.):** Melissa posted a reminder on the website about the vote. Phone calls will be done regarding the vote reminder. There was some discussion about how to explain in an easy to understand way about how VT funds their education system. Melissa advised there is info under the Budget info page on the district website that explains the CLA and how VT funds education.
8. **Public Comments:** None
9. **Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 10:05 a.m.