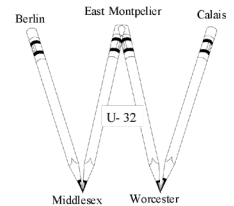


Washington Central Unified Union School District

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 8.11.26 8:30-9:30 AM Central Office 1130 Gallison Hill Rd. Montpelier, VT

Present: Flor Diaz Smith, Alicia Lyford, Susanne Gann, Daniel Keeney, Ursula Stanley, Zach Sullivan

Others: Sonja Andrews, Lila Richardson

1. Call to Order: Flor Diaz Smith called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

2. Informational Reports:

2.1. Partial Corrective Action Plan: Proposed Renovation Area at U-32 Middle and High School: Susanne Gann explained this work with Stone Environmental. She stated that the corrective action plan is provided on the Vermont Environmental Protection Agency's website. She stated that this is in conjunction with the U-32 kitchen update project. Daniel Keeney asked, regarding improvement estimates, the number in the Stone Environmental plan does not appear to be included in the plan. Susanne Gann shared that in May we had included this into the plan/ cost of the kitchen project. Flor Diaz Smith clarified, at this time we do not anticipate other PCB concerns as we move forward with renovations? Susanne Gann stated that we are currently in a "monitoring stage." Flor Diaz Smith asked about what the "public comment" looks like as required? Susanne Gann explained what this will look like in the format of the WCUUSD Board meeting; this will be specific to the corrective action plan for the kitchen at U-32. Susanne Gann stated that in other spaces we are using air filters and monitoring. Flor Diaz Smith stated that she is not sure this is clear in the report. Dan Keeney stated that we can clarify what is the public comment opportunity (and what it is not.) It is a legal requirement and we will have experts on the matter available at the meeting.

3. Discussion/Action

3.1. FY 28 Capital Improvement Projects: Susanne Gann had provided a *Capital Improvements memo*, dated August 7, 2026. Zach Sullivan asked for some clarifications on

some of the projects. She explained. Zach stated that he has raised concerns about estimates in the past; how are we developing bids? Are we telegraphing to contractors for high estimates? He had sent an email to Susanne about some of the specifics; he worries that we are locking ourselves into some of these larger companies who are bidding higher. Susanne stated that she intends to bring these concerns to Andrew and Chris to discuss further; she stated that we often try to combine projects; she explained the bidding process which is managed by Black River. Brief discussion followed. Chris McVeigh asked whether the numbers we are talking about are public information. Is there a way to get around having that being public? Contractors have this information and could it influence their bidding process? Susanne Gann explained that the board approves projects and this is part of the open meeting public process so she does not know a way around that. Some discussion followed around 30% factor in the estimates for cost increase. Chris McVeigh clarified that EMES will use its own remaining capital fund for some of the projects listed. This is important information to share, he stated.

3.1.1. Scope & Budget Update

3.1.2. Approve Bid Document Preparation and Bidding: Daniel Keeney moved that the Finance Committee recommend that the Board authorize the completion of the recommended projects as identified above for an amount not to exceed \$967,205 and approve the District moving forward with bid document preparation and bidding as necessary. Seconded by Ursula Stanley. Discussion: Dan Keeney stated that there might be an opportunity in terms of sequence, in making estimate amounts public, to protect our economic interests. He stated that he is interested to hear what the other stakeholders have in mind to further this discussion. **This motion carried. Chris McVeigh abstained.**

3.2. Award Bid for U-32 Replacement One-ton Dump Truck with Plow: Daniel Keeney moved that the Finance Committee recommend that the Board move to authorize the acting Superintendents to purchase a 2027 Chevrolet Silverado with Plow from Cody Chevrolet in Montpelier for an amount not to exceed \$72,533. Seconded by Zach Sullivan, this motion carried unanimously.

4. Future Agenda Items

4.1. Budget development

4.2. Zach suggested: more information on the bidding process. (Flor Diaz Smith suggested inviting Chris and Andrew to our next meeting, and possibly Black River.) Chris and Andrew: explain bidding process. Polly of BRD can explain their part in the process. Ursula Stanley suggested further discussing our cost estimating process.

4.3. Dan Keeney would like to discuss the timeline regarding information from transportation (e.g., routes). When we are planning changes, it is reasonable to expect a shorter timeline of information turnaround so that we can share with the public earlier. Is this the work of this committee or the Transportation committee or both? To understand the process/ timeline. Susanne Gann stated that typically the Bus company and the superintendent work on the routes. Dan Keeney stated that he would like to understand the time elapse between transportation cost and routing and when the information comes to the board. Susanne Gann, Jen Miller Arsenault and Alicia Lyford will follow up on this. Ursula Stanley wondered, is there a role the board can play in making sure that the public completes the survey that is put out regarding transportation. Alicia Lyford stated that she met with Sue V

yesterday on some of these issues. When families do not complete the survey, she looks at ridership data from past years. Alicia stated that she will share more formally in a board report. Flor Diaz Smith stated that she has created some Reflection Questions for the committee in our work going forward? She shared them aloud and will share via email with committee members.

4.4. Next Regular Meeting: September 8, 2026

- 5. Public Comment:** Sonja Andrews thanked the committee for its work and stated that this meeting was very enlightening.
- 6. Adjourn:** The committee adjourned by consensus at 9:18 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Grace, Committee Recording Secretary