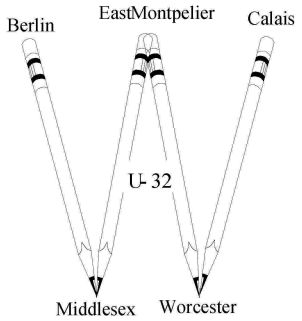
Board Governance & Finance

WCUUSD BOARD BUDGET TRAINING

Annual Orientation

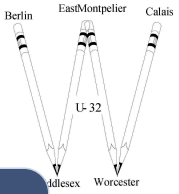
FY 2027-28 Budget Journey

September 16, 2026



WASHINGTON CENTRAL UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DIST
BERLIN – CALAIS - EAST MONTPELIER – MIDDLESEX – WORCESTER – U

GOALS FOR TONIGHT



GOAL 01

Board Role in Budgeting

Review the role of the Board in the development of the school district budget.

GOAL 02

Foundational Tools

Review the tools the Board has already provided administration to begin budgeting: the Mission Statement, Core Beliefs and Goals of the Strategic Plan.

GOAL 03

Budget Roadmap

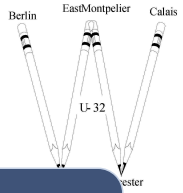
Walk through the WCUUSD budget development roadmap and the four phases of year-round budgeting.

GOAL 04

Questions & Feedback

Provide the Board a space to ask questions and offer feedback on the budgeting process.

THE ROLE OF THE BOARD



ESSENTIAL WORK OF SCHOOL BOARDS

Develop and adopt a budget to *support the vision*, and *assure sound financial oversight*.

- Overall guidance for budget priorities as well as budget parameters.
- Board pays attention to the overall financial health of the district.
- Input occurs through the identification of Board priorities; not detail level (programs not people).

DISTRICT QUALITY STANDARDS

1. **Financial Process & Transparency**
   The SU/SD follows consistent and financially sound processes to effectively manage its budget, use resources most efficiently, and ensure transparency of financial operations.

2. **Compliance & Goal Alignment**
   The SU/SD prepares and presents an annual budget which ensures compliance with federal and other budgeting requirements and demonstrates a clear connection to established SU/SD goals and priorities.

WCUUSD Mission Statement

“

WCUUSD exists to nurture and inspire in all students the passion, creativity, and power to contribute to their local and global communities.



WCUUSD CORE BELIEFS

Rigorous Curriculum & Instruction:

We believe that schools should provide a variety of opportunities and experiences that students find meaningful and challenging. Students need to see their lives and the lives of others reflected in materials, resources, books, and lessons. Our learning materials and activities must help students develop a sense of identity, build on their strengths, encourage them to direct their learning experiences, and prepare them to grow and thrive as community members and lifelong learners.

Transparent & Responsible Governance:

We believe that all decisions about our schools must center students. We seek to build on our strengths and continue to grow and improve our practices. We commit to making decisions using data and input from the community. We will communicate all of our decisions and processes in a clear and timely way.

Wellbeing:

We believe that schools must create a space where all students feel safe and valued. It is important that our schools meet the academic, social-emotional, and physical needs of all students. We foster and practice joy, kindness, empathy, inclusivity, and flexibility.

Community Engagement & Relationships:

We believe in building strong, positive relationships in our schools and communities. The community must be a part of our schools. We encourage people to talk to each other about our similarities and our differences.

Humanity, Justice, Community, & Belonging:

We respect, value, and welcome all individuals. We strive to make sure everyone feels like they belong by honoring diversity, seeking fairness, and celebrating the different experiences we all bring to this community. We promise to continue to learn and adjust our practices to create a more just and humane world.

Goals of the Strategic Plan

01

CULTURE & INCLUSION

Well-Being & Culture

Build and nurture a culture of well-being and inclusivity.

02

STUDENT LEARNING

Empower & Engage

Challenge, empower, and engage each student through evidence-based instructional strategies and curriculum, and varied educational opportunities.

03

GOVERNANCE & TRUST

Responsible Leadership

Foster and commit to responsible leadership that engages the community and communicates transparently.

Phase 1: Foundation & Parameter Setting (August – October 2026)

08/19/2026

Capital Projects Scope & Budget

Board reviews and approves Scope & Budget for FY 28 Capital Projects.

09/16/2026

Timeline Approval & Training

Board Budget Training. Board approves official Budget Development Timeline.

10/7/26

Collaborative Conversation focused on Budget

Board Budget Training and preliminary conversation about budget parameters

10/21/2026

Board sets Parameters for Draft #1

Board finalizes budget parameters

Phase 2: Draft Review & Public Feedback (November – December 2026)

11/18/2026

Draft #1 Review & Title I Meeting

- Board reviews FY 28 budget building assumptions.
- Annual Title I meeting.
- Board reviews Draft #1 & provides detailed guidance for refinements.

12/16/2026

Draft #2 & Community Presentation

- Community Presentation & Board Budget Discussion of Draft #2.
- Incorporates the Tax Commissioner’s December 1st letter and the updated Grand List and Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) data.
- Public feedback received

Phase 3: Final Approval & Voter Outreach (January – February 2027)

01/20/2027

Budget Adoption & Warnings

Community Presentation & Board Budget Approval. Board reviews staffing vacancies, warning language, and annual report format.

01/20/2027

Outreach & Communication

Board reviews and approves official Board Communication and Outreach Plan to inform voters.

02/17/2027

Meeting Preparation

Board prepares presentation materials and logistics for the upcoming March Informational Meeting.

Phase 4: Public Vote, Reorganization & Reflection (March – June 2027)

03/01/2027 — Informational Meeting

Informational Meeting at U-32 Middle/High School to present Final FY 28 Budget.

03/02/2027 — Town Meeting Day Vote

Town Meeting Day Vote – FY 28 Budget Vote via Australian Ballot across district towns.

03/17/2027 — Board Reorganization

School Board holds annual reorganization meeting following election results.

04/21/2027 — Financial Report Review

Board reviews FY 27 Financial Report and year-to-date position.

05/19/2027 — Process Reflection

Board reflects on FY 28 Budget Development Process for future improvements.

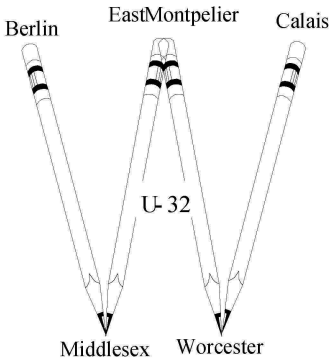
June 2027 — School Board Retreat

Annual School Board Retreat to set strategic goals for upcoming year.

Questions & Discussion

We Welcome Board Feedback

Please feel free to ask questions, share perspectives, or request clarification on the budget development journey.



Key Public Engagement & Voting Opportunities

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: COMMUNITY DATES

- **Oct 7, 2026:** Collaborative Conversation focused on budget
- **Nov 18, 2026:** Draft #1 Presentation & Annual Title I Meeting
- **Dec 16, 2026:** Community Presentation & Board Budget Discussion (Draft #2)
- **Jan 20, 2027:** Community Presentation & Final Board Budget Approval
- **Mar 01, 2027:** Annual District Informational Meeting at U-32 Middle/High School
- **Mar 02, 2027:** Town Meeting Day Vote on FY 28 Budget via Australian Ballot