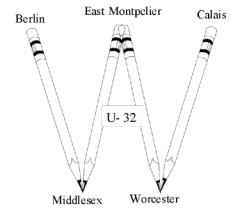


Washington Central Unified Union School District

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 9.8.26 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, Andrew LaRosa, Polly Wheeler, Chris O'Brien, Alicia Lyford, Jen Miller-Arsenault

1. **Call to Order:** Flor Diaz Smith called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

2. **Informational Reports**

2.1. Monthly Reflections: Susanne Gann shared that the Business Office has been very busy preparing for the fall audit; closing out FY26; data collection reports. She thanked Tim and Tom, Heidi, Holly, Patricia, for their work over the summer.

3. **Discussion/Action**

3.1. Discuss FY 28 Capital Improvement Project Bid Strategy: Susanne Gann opened this discussion about combined program bidding as past practice and a strategy, to include Andrew, Polly and Chris. Flor Diaz Smith asked for a brief explanation of how estimates are developed. Andrew LaRosa spoke about some of the efficiencies in bundling projects. Some discussion followed. Zach Sullivan stated that what he hears from the community is that we are making small cuts from the budget, for example, in transportation and in administrative assistant staffing, but we are not making such cuts in capital budget.

3.2. Discuss FY 28 Budget Timeline: Susanne Gann had shared a slide deck with the committee to discuss budget development for FY28. She invited questions or input from committee members. Daniel Keeney asked whether it is possible to include new/updated factors in the timeline. For example, how/when the negotiations process informs the budget, how/when CLA (Common Level of Appraisal), statewide healthcare, enrollment numbers are available and inform the budget. Zach Sullivan stated that he would like to begin discussions of communications around the budget in January (versus February), even if dealing with incomplete information. Dan Keeney

spoke also about the role that this committee can have in communication around the budget: how we can help the board think about the decision in front of us? (and by extension, the community) He suggested inviting the board chair and the communications committee to the meetings as this committee does this work. Ursula agreed with this, as she stated that we often hear from our community that they do not feel informed, even though we discuss for months in open meetings. The Finance Committee and the Communications Committee working together could help address this. Flor Diaz Smith agreed that community engagement is a huge part of our work as a committee and as a board. Flor Diaz Smith shared the work plan with the committee. Susanne Gann expressed appreciation for this committee speaking about community engagement. She stated that the superintendent is a key position for communicating with the community so it is critical to keep this at the forefront as we move forward with interim superintendent(s).

4. Future Agenda Items

4.1. Next Regular Meeting: October 13, 2026

5. Adjourn: The committee adjourned by consensus at 9:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Grace, Committee Recording Secretary