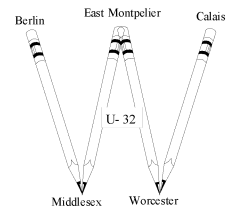


Washington Central Unified Union School District

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

1130 Gallison Hill Road
Montpelier, VT 05602
Phone (802) 229-0553
Fax (802) 229-2761



**WCUUSD Finance Committee
Meeting Agenda
10.13.26
8:30-9:30 AM
Central Office
1130 Gallison Hill Rd.
Montpelier, VT**

Virtual Meeting Information

<https://tinyurl.com/w6pjax3w>

Meeting ID: 883 7798 0236

Password: 525313

Dial by Your Location: 1-929-205-6099

Virtual Only

1. Call to Order
2. Informational Reports
 - 2.1. Monthly Reflections
 - 2.2. Finance Committee Work Plan-pg. 3
3. Discussion/Action
 - 3.1. Budget Training
 - 3.2. Board Parameters - pg. 6
 - 3.3. CESA and Merger Timelines
4. Future Agenda Items
 - 4.1. Next Regular Meeting: November 10, 2026

NOTE: To ensure the board has time to conduct its business, the board will adhere to a strict 1.5 minute public comment time limit per person. Microphones will be muted when time is up. If there is not enough time on the agenda for all members of the public wishing to comment at the beginning of the meeting, there is additional public comment at the end of the meeting.

WCUUSD Board Norms - Adopted 9.17.25

- **Public input** –Notify the community about public forums and opportunities for public comment at board meetings, and the ability to always submit written input.
- **Community involvement during regular meetings of the board** – Every meeting will include at least one opportunity for public comment. Public comment is an opportunity for board members to listen. If a board member feels a concern raised in public comment warrants further board discussion, they may request that the steering committee discuss and decide how the issue should be added to a future agenda.
- **Community dialogue** – The board will periodically schedule community forums that allow for dialogue, questions and answers from the board or the district leadership team.
- **Stay on time** – Start and end on time. The chair may appoint a time-keeper.
- **Inclusive time for thoughtful decisions** – The chair and agenda steering committee will plan time for complex or contentious issues to be discussed at more than one meeting before the board votes, except where a decision is urgent.
- **Prepare for meetings and receive materials in advance**–Board members come prepared, having reviewed the agenda and materials in advance
- **Announcements in reports** – Announcements from the administration will appear in the reports and not as discussion items.
- **Respect each other** – Listen, allow others to be heard, share concerns, assume positive intentions, be present, focus on shared solutions and celebrate successes.
- **All voices will be heard**– Every board member gets a chance to speak. Some topics warrant having each board member speak in turn to ensure full representation. Board members will address the topics up for debate and not the person.
- **Governance Reflection** – At the end of each board meeting, reflect on whether the board adhered to agreed protocols, processes, and policies.
- **Reflection** –At the end of each board meeting, board members will be allowed time to share their general reflections on the meeting.

AGENDA KEY

Agenda Section	Examples	Role/ Responsibility	Description
Call to Order	n/a	Board Chair or designee	Formal opening to meeting. Superintendent calls to order during annual reorganization
Public Comment			Opportunity for public comment on items not on the agenda. Board will adhere to a strict 1.5 minute public comment time limit per person. Microphones will be muted when time is up. If there is not enough time on the agenda for all members of the public wishing to comment at the beginning of the meeting, there is additional public comment at the end of the meeting.
Executive Session	Personnel Student Matter Negotiations		Only for discussion of items covered in VSA §313. Formal actions not taken in Executive Session
Reports to the Board	Superintendent/ COLT Student Report	Administration	Both regular/recurring reports and one-time reports happen here. One-time reports are determined by the Board workplan or requested by the will of the Board. Generally, reports invite clarifying questions but not formal discussion/action
Committee Reports	Finance Policy Education Quality	Board	Chair of the committee reports on substance of most recent committee meeting. Generally, reports invite clarifying questions; any discussion or action items would be listed in the respective section of the agenda
Discussion Items		Board with input from administration	Items on the agenda specifically for discussion of the Board. Chair can seek input from audience during discussions. Generally not intended for action (although nothing prevents the Board from taking an action)
Action Items	Personnel approvals	Board	Items formally on the agenda for Board action. Discussion can occur after a motion is on the table
Consent Agenda	Board Orders Minutes	Board	Designed for items that need proforma approval and/or are sufficiently routine. Board acts on all items in the Consent agenda and does not discuss any item unless it is pulled out during Agenda Adjustments

FINANCE COMMITTEE WORK PLAN 2026-2027

Guiding Principal
Equity, Quality of Education and Sustainability
Advances equity
Preserves educational quality.
Maintains financial sustainability.
Protects organizational capacity during significant education transformation transition work.
Positions the district for future success.

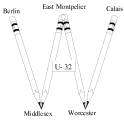
Reflection after each meeting:

- Did today's decisions improve equity?
- Did they strengthen educational quality?
- Are they financially sustainable?
- Did we respect the capacity of our staff and leadership?
- How will today's decisions improve outcomes for students?

DATE	FINANCE COMMITTEE WORK					
	Financial Informational Reports/ Presentations	Finance Committee Learning? or (Ed quality Reports)	Legislative Update / CESA and Merger work	Discussion	Action	Community Engagement
August 11	FY 28 Capital Projects					
September 8	Understanding Capital Planning and Bidding	Enrollment Negotiations Staffing December 1st letter		Budget Timeline	Budget Timeline	How do we approach this so we can have a say as a committee.

October 7						Ed Quality Committee input on Parameters. Community Conversation Input on Budget Parameters.
October 13	Preliminary Enrollment End of FY26 Financial Report Reserve Fund Balance	Budget Training EQS, Centralize Services	Update on 1st Merger Committee meeting. Bring the questions. Review Timeline	Finalize Draft Parameters	Recommend Budget Parameters to the Board LTW/ADM?	October 7, 2026 /Community Conversation use notes. Communicate the parameters to the community and how we used their feedback after the Board Meeting. Discuss the next community engagement opportunity.
November 10	Budget Training - School-based allocations and expenses CESA Review FY 28 Budget Draft #1		The next Merger meeting is scheduled for Nov 19. We will have more information to update our work plan.		Review budget costs associated with Special Education, Healthcare, Facilities/ Capital Improvement, Transportation, Grants	Replicate the Community conversation with the information we have now using the 3 Groups: BOARD/CENTRAL OFFICE LEADERSHIP TEAM/ PRINCIPALS
December 8	Review FY 28 Budget Draft #2				Review FY 28 Budget Draft #2	Community Engagement small groups
January 12	Review and Approve FY 28 Final Budget		Schedule legislative breakfast to share our priorities		Review and Recommend FY 28 Final Budget	Community Engagement small groups

February 9	Budget Communication and next steps					Community Engagement Send Post Card out
March 8	NO MEETING					
April 13	Capital Improvement Plan and Mult-Year Budget				Recommend to the Board Capital Improvement Plan and Mult-Year Budget	
May 11					Reflect on Budget Process	
June 8						



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DRAFT MEMO

To: WCUUSD Board
From: Flor Diaz Smith,
WCUUSD Finance Committee Chair

Re: Budget Parameters 2027-2028
Date: October 9, 2026

WCUUSD School Board members,

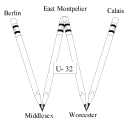
The Finance Committee met and wanted to share the following budget parameters we discussed. Before we get started I want to remind us that we approved an [equity policy](#) that defines educational equity as:

Educational equity occurs when each child receives what they need to develop to their full academic and social-emotional potential. Equity goes beyond formal equality where all students are treated the same. Working towards equity in schools involves:

- Expecting high outcomes for all participants in our educational system, and removing the predictability of success or failures that currently correlates with any social or cultural factor;
- Identify and remove inequitable practices, examining biases and creating inclusive multicultural school environments for adults and children;
- Providing every student with access to high quality culturally responsive educational experiences
- Discovering and cultivating the unique gifts, talents and interests that every human possesses

Keep in mind the definition above as you review the following budget parameters:

1. Continue to offer and further develop the Multi-Layer System of Support to all students across all schools and Professional Development for Teachers. (Strategic investment in building teacher capacity)(Most vulnerable students will have what they need)
2. Concentrate on the Services we should include and tie the parts of our budget to service delivery to students,
3. Frame budget to the Goals of our **Strategic Plan** and our **Core Beliefs**.
4. Ensure planning remains under the Excess spending threshold. This is X as of October.



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5. Continue to frame budget decisions around Ed Quality Standards, Equitable distribution of Resources (and meeting student need, transportation equity, Opportunity for extended before and after care, nursing, library)
6. Provide the lowest increase in net spending with meeting EQS and addressing equitable distribution of resources and student needs.(enrollment and program reductions)
7. Consider configurations that realize program quality improvements within optimal class sizes.
8. Move towards long Term Financial Sustainability of our system (Appropriate level of increase that we can sustain within our community)
9. Develop contingency plans for expense reduction options, in the event that the Board determines that the prposed spending leads to unfavorable tax implications.
- 10. We need to incorporate the feedback from the community conversation into these draft parameters.**

These parameters will be used to guide our administrators as they develop the Next Budget Draft. Please review in advance for discussion at our meeting on October 21, 2026. The Finance Committee is looking forward to working and collaborating with all of you as we get started in our budget process.