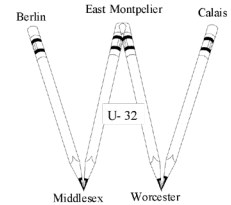


Washington Central Unified Union School District

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 Education Quality Committee Meeting 10.7.26 5:00-6:00 PM In Person/Virtual East Montpelier Elementary School 665 Vincent Flats Rd. East Montpelier, VT

Present: Ursula Stanley, Diane Nichols-Fleming, Kalita Lindig, Zach Sullivan, Marty McMahon, JoAn Canning, Jen Miller-Arsenault, Linda Gray, Flor Diaz Smith, ORCA Media

- 1. Call to Order:** Ursula Stanley called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m.
- 2. Welcome:** Ursula welcomed those present.
- 3. Public Comments:** (please see below, at end of meeting)
- 4. Approve Minutes of 9.2.26:** Diane Nichols-Fleming moved to approve the minutes from September 2, 2026. Seconded by Zach Sullivan, this motion carried unanimously.

5. Discussion/Action

5.1. Presentation: Student Monitoring Report Spring 2026, Part 2

Jen Miller-Arsenault presented a slide deck to include math, reading, i-Ready and Acadience.

5.2 Revised Making Meaning Protocol

Jen Miller-Arsenault asked committee members to consider:

How are our students doing?

What questions do you have?

Is this the information we need in order to do our committee work?

What would we like to share with the full board?

Marty McMahon asked, the gaps based on economic status, is there some theory as to why this gap exists?

Jen Miller-Arsenault stated that she would not make any generalizations but she referred to studies that show that young children's experiences have an impact on learning later. She spoke

about the effort at WCUUSD to increase pre-K offerings. Marty McMahon asked whether there is any data to show that the increase in hours that we offer for pre-K is having an impact on their school performance later. She responded that we don't have that data yet, and the children in WCUUSD attend a wide variety of preschool experiences. Jen Miller-Arsenault stated that some of the assessments that we are using now were not in place when children began attending 10 hours of pre-K at WCUUSD programs, so it is difficult to measure at this time.

Zach Sullivan - looking at data based on economic status, he notices that the gap in math is getting bigger. Why is it that we are losing ground in math versus reading? Jen Miller-Arsenault stated that she does not have an explanation for that; however she spoke about professional development in the areas of math and executive functioning and instructional routines. Getting back to highly effective instruction in math; hoping this will move the needle for us. She stated that when we first began to implement our math program it was the year that COVID-19 happened.

Ursula Stanley asked what information would the committee like to share with the full board. Zach Sullivan: would like to include data on economic disparity for reading and math together, side by side. He noted that we have a CIP around math and connecting that to budget development and priorities.

Marty McMahon suggested justifying what we are doing, particularly with pre-K and K. How do we justify the need, necessity and show that there are improved outcomes for students.

Zach Sullivan suggests including one graph that shows the data in summary, similar to the one he had suggested over the summer.

Diane Nichols-Fleming stated that if we don't have the ability to say if we focus resources here it will affect growth, it would be good to know what we are doing that is working.

Zach Sullivan spoke about past considerations around spreading resources, interventionists were shifted to be creative (e.g., interventionists were moved to teaching math versus providing intervention).

Diane Nichols-Fleming warned against attributing too much to one factor without knowing for certain.

Jen Miller-Arsenault spoke about board parameters, ensuring that we have high quality, excellent first instruction, and we have supports available when students need them.

Flor Diaz Smith reminded the committee that we had made a motion to that effect at a previous meeting.

Flor Diaz Smith suggested when showing a graph in the report, to include three concise bullet points.

Ursula Stanley will provide a draft to the committee at the next meeting.

Marty McMahon asked how we can move forward with a discussion about technology and how it affects students.

Ursula Stanley stated that this issue is on the future agenda items for the board; she noted that the board has not created a workplan; this was on the agenda for the board retreat.

Diane Nichols-Fleming shared that this is a topic for discussion; it is not being shut down, it is a matter of the Steering Committee creating agendas and prioritizing all that is on the plate.

Zach Sullivan asked about proficiency versus stretch growth and how to share this data in the report.

Jen Miller-Arsenault shared that the board has expressed interest in seeing comparison to national data.

Diane Nichols-Fleming asked if there is an ability to share what we are seeing in these assessments versus what the press has been sharing as assessment data to show that we are indeed making progress. Diane Nichols-Fleming will share with Ursula Stanley the article to which she referred.

Jen Miller-Arsenault stated there is a balance between showing a realistic picture and also a sense of urgency that we have work to do.

Public comment:

Linda Gray spoke about economic disadvantage not being a static category. She is seeing more distress among families; it is not always the same group. It is important to recognize that a lot of families are experiencing distress. She suggested that it is important to also share the good news as well as what we are doing to improve student outcomes.

6. Future Agenda Items

6.1. Presentation: Post-Secondary Outcomes

6.2. Review and Approval of Student Monitoring Report, Spring 2026

7. Adjourn: With a motion to adjourn by Marty McMahon, seconded by Zach Sullivan, and carried unanimously, the committee adjourned at 5:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Grace, Committee Recording Secretary