

Windsor Central Unified Union School District
Board of Directors Monthly Meeting
October 4, 2021, 6:30 p.m., WCSU Conference Room
[Virtual Zoom meeting recording](#)

Board Members Present:

Barnard:

Bryce Sammel (virtual)
Kelly Welch (virtual)

Bridgewater:

Matthew Hough (physical)
Sarah Adams (virtual)

Killington:

Gwen Hagenbarth (virtual)
Jim Haff (physical)

Plymouth:

Jay Moore (virtual)

Pomfret:

Bob Crean (virtual)
Bill Overbay (virtual)

Reading:

Anna Sessa (virtual)
Adam Ameele (virtual)

Woodstock:

Keri Bristow (physical)
Louis Piconi (virtual)
Clare Drebitko (virtual)
Ben Ford (virtual)
Todd Ulman (virtual)
Sam DiNatale (virtual)

Superintendent: Sherry Sousa (virtual)

Director of Student Support Services:

Director of Instructional Technology: Raphael Adamek (virtual)

Director of Finance and Operations: Jim Fenn (physical)

District Curriculum Coordinator: Jennifer Stainton (virtual)

District Buildings & Grounds Manager: Joe Rigoli (physical)

Director of Human Resources: Linda Loprete (virtual)

Principals/ Administration: Hannah Leland, Mary Guggenberger, Garon Smail, Maggie Mills, John Hansen

Student Representatives:

Pittsfield School Board: Ray Rice (virtual)

Recording Secretary: Rayna Bishop (virtual)

Presenters: Julie Brown, Lisa Laird

1. Bryce Sammel called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.
2. Amendments to the Agenda: none. Motion to approve the agenda. Moved: Jim Haff. Seconded: Keri Bristow. All in favor.
3. Public Comment: Comments were heard from the public regarding the naming policy. Comment was also heard regarding the COVID-19 compliance guidelines.
4. Reports: Superintendent Sousa opened with talking about her report, including the status of COVID-19 in our schools. Katie Burke talked about vaccinations, testing, and testing initiatives. Sherry also discussed the district's antiracism work.
Director of IT Raph Adamek discussed [opening enrollment](#) and factors that affect the data.
Sherry discussed the Dir. Of Instr. Support's report with EST and MTSS highlights, and the use of grant funding as well as the application for new grants.
Dir. Of Finance Jim Fenn discussed his work from the finance office.
CIA Director Jennifer Stainton discussed the website updates for faculty and staff access to professional development documents, and shared the district's investment into teachers' professional growth.
5. Time Scheduled Appointments:
 - a. Fostering and Growing International Partnerships: Garon discussed Strategy 4.2, and the elements of the work being done by Colleen O'Connell and Gabriella Durgin.

- b. The Science of Reading: Julie Brown and Lisa Laird delivered a presentation on [the Science of Reading](#), highlighting the research supporting the advantages of a structured literacy approach to reading and to address issues related to reading and writing.
6. Committees:
 - a. Policy Committee:
 - i. Second Reading- Naming Facilities, Programs, and Events. Jim Haff motions to discuss possible changes for a third reading. Seconded by Keri Bristow. Board members discussed and made recommendations for adjustments. All in favor.
 - ii. First Reading- Transportation Policy. Recommendation for a change to give the superintendent more flexibility to make exceptions to the rule if it were appropriate. The proposed wording addition to the first paragraph of the existing policy is:
“Where it is reasonable and necessary to enable a student entitled or required to attend an elementary or a secondary school within the WCUD School District, the district may furnish transportation to students in grades K-12 who reside within the district. The school district may also provide transportation to non-resident students as authorized by the board. *Additionally, the Superintendent shall have the authority to make exceptions to this policy under circumstances deemed to be exceptional as long as all safety requirements are met and the exceptions are authorized by the Board.* Accordingly, the WCUD School District has decided to furnish transportation under this policy.” Motion by Lou Piconi to adopt the amendment to the policy at the next meeting. Seconded by Anna Sessa. All in favor.
 - iii. Committee Update- At the next committee meeting, reconsideration of the Naming policy, and first look at the antiracism policy.
 - b. Buildings & Grounds Committee Update- Completed a walk-through at KES, and next meeting will walk through BA.
 - c. Finance Committee
 - i. FY23 Budget Priorities and Assumptions- Ben Ford discussed the beginning of the FY23 budget process and areas to consider.
 - ii. Committee Update- n/a
 - d. Negotiations, Hiring, & Retention Committee Update- n/a
 - e. Other Working Groups if needed- n/a
 7. Consent Agenda: Motion by Keri Bristow to approve the consent agenda. Seconded by Anna Sessa. All in favor.
 8. Public comment: Public comment was heard regarding the naming policy again to clarify and reiterate the stance of some community members.
 9. Reflection
 10. Motion to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. Moved: Ben Ford. Seconded: Anna Sessa. All in favor.