

WARNING

WASHINGTON CENTRAL UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

SPECIAL MEETING

June 25, 2019

The legal voters of the Washington Central Unified Union School District (“District”), a municipal corporation consisting of the Town School Districts of Berlin, Calais, East Montpelier, Middlesex, and Worcester, Vermont, are hereby notified and warned to meet in their respective towns at the polling places hereinafter named on Tuesday, June 25, 2019, to vote by Australian ballot on Articles 1 through 5 below. The polls will open beginning at 8:00 AM in Berlin; 7:00 AM in Calais; 7:00 AM in East Montpelier; 7:00 AM in Middlesex; and 10:00 AM in Worcester. The polls will close in all towns at 7:00 PM.

Note: Articles 1-4 are proposed amendments to the Articles of Agreement for the Washington Central Unified Union School District. The format of the proposed amendments is as follows: wording in regular text is current language to be retained; wording with ~~striketrough~~ is current language to be deleted; and wording in **bold underline** is proposed new language for the article.

Article 1: Shall the voters approve the following amendment to the Washington Central Unified Union School District Articles of Agreement:

Article 4 – Closure of School Buildings

A. Academic Years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021

In academic years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021, the New Union District shall not close any school building conveyed to the New Union District by a Forming District or cease using the building to provide direct education in at least one grade, prekindergarten through grade 12, unless first approved by the voters residing in the town(s) in which the school is located.

Provided, however, that if the school building was conveyed by a Forming District that was already a union school district, then the New Union District shall not close the school building or cease using the building to provide direct education in at least one grade in academic years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 unless first approved by the electorate of the New Union District.

B. Academic Year 2021-2022 and After

In academic year 2021-2022 and after, the New Union District Board shall not close any school building or cease using the building to provide direct instruction in at least one grade, prekindergarten through grade 12, unless first approved by **both a majority of the Union District Board and the voters residing in the town in which the school is located.** ~~the electorate of the New Union District.~~

Article 2: Shall the voters approve the following amendment to the Washington Central Unified Union School District Articles of Agreement:

Article 11: Representation on New Union District Board – On or After the District’s Annual Meeting in 2020.

~~The New Union District Board shall be composed of individuals elected pursuant to the “Hybrid Model” of board representation, in the numbers and allocation set forth for election of the initial members under Article 10(A), unless and until the voters of the New Union District amend this Article 11.~~

Immediately following the School District Annual Meeting of 2020, the Board of School Directors shall be expanded to include five (5) additional members elected for a total of fifteen (15) members, with 3 members from each town. The additional members will be elected at the 2020 annual School District Meeting. All members will be voted on by the entire electorate. Votes of the entire electorate shall be counted together (comingled) without being first counted at the town level.

The terms of office for the additional member shall be as follows:

Berlin – term ending 2022

Calais – term ending 2021

East Montpelier – term ending 2023

Middlesex – term ending 2022

Worcester – term ending 2021

Except as provided for the election of the initial members of the New Union Board in Article 10(B), each New Union District Board member shall serve for a period of three (3) years or until his or her successor is elected and qualified, as required by Vermont law.

Each member of the New Union Board who serves after the expiration of terms of the initial Board members, shall be elected at an annual or special meeting of the New Union District. Terms of office shall begin and expire on the date of the New Union District’s annual meeting. In the event the New Union District’s annual meeting precedes Town Meeting Day, the terms of each Board member shall begin and expire on Town Meeting Day.

If the voters amend this Article 11, the amendment shall ensure that the terms of office are staggered as required by law.

Article 3: Shall the voters approve the following amendment to the Washington Central Unified Union School District Articles of Agreement:

Article 15 (tentative) – Input on Policy and Budget Development

The District Board shall provide timely and sufficient opportunity for local input on policy and budget development; structures to support and encourage public participation within the District will be established by the District Board of School Directors on or before June 30, 2020.

These structures may include but not be limited to local school councils that have an advisory responsibility in key areas.

Article 4: Shall the voters approve the following amendment to the Washington Central Unified Union School District Articles of Agreement:

Article 18 (tentative)

If a competent judicial authority concludes that any of these articles are illegal for any reason, then that article or part thereof shall be nullified. The remaining article or part thereof shall be deemed severable from the nullified article or section of an article and shall remain in full force and effect.

Article 5: **Article 19 (tentative)**

These articles are prepared due to the State Board's order forcing merger of the Washington Central Supervisory Union member towns. By voting on these Articles, the voters in the member towns are not waiving any rights to challenge the legality of the State Board's forced merger order. All rights are reserved.

Polling Places & Hours

Berlin Municipal Office, 108 Shed Road, Berlin – 8:00 AM - 7:00 PM
Calais Town Office, 3120 Pekin Brook Road, Calais – 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM
East Montpelier Elementary School in East Montpelier – 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM
Middlesex Town Office, 5 Church Street, Middlesex – 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM
Worcester Town Office, 20 Worcester Village Road, Worcester – 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM

Upon closing of the polls, the ballots will be counted by local town/village election officials who shall transmit the voting results to the Clerk of the Washington Central Unified Union School District, who will then tabulate the final results for the District.

The legal voters of the Washington Central Unified Union School District are further notified that voter qualification and registration relative to said Special Meeting shall be as provided in Sections 706u of Title 16 and Chapters 43, 51 and 55 of Title 17, Vermont Statutes Annotated.

Dated at East Montpelier, Vermont this 22nd day of May 2019.

Vera Frazier, Berlin
WCUUSD Board Director

George Gross, Berlin
WCUUSD Board Director

Dorothy O Naylor
Dorothy Naylor, Calais
WCUUSD Board Director

C. Scott Thompson
C. Scott Thompson
WCUUSD Board Director

Flor Diaz Smith
Flor Diaz Smith, East Montpelier
WCUUSD Board Director

Malinda (Lindy) Johnson
Malinda (Lindy) Johnson, East Montpelier
WCUUSD Board Director

Christopher McVeigh
Christopher McVeigh, Middlesex
WCUUSD Board Director

Marylaine Strachan
Marylaine Strachan, Middlesex
WCUUSD Board Director

Jonas Eno-Van Fleet
Jonas Eno-Van Fleet, Worcester
WCUUSD Board Director

Jaiel Pulskamp
Jaiel Pulskamp, Worcester
WCUUSD Board Director

I hereby certify the above warning was received and recorded this 23 day of May, 2019.

Mary Ormsby
Mary Ormsby
WCUUSD Clerk