



Washington Central Supervisory Union

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TO: State of Vermont House Committees-Education & Ways and Means

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My name is Lori Bibeau, I am a Past President of the Vermont Association of School Business Officials. I am also the Business Administrator of Washington Central Supervisory Union (WCSU) for 20 years.

During that time, WCSU has worked together on ways to become more efficient and to save the taxpayer's money. Here is a list of some of the successes at WCSU:

- For more than 10 years we have shared a single bus contract with shared busing throughout the Supervisory Union. We have contracted with a Single auditor. WCSU did this work together LONG before the State required this be done. We also complete joint bidding for insurances, supplies and facility items. We constantly focus on working together to complete bidding.
- Washington Central has two Union Agreements- One for Professional Staff and One for Support Staff.
- All of the Accounting is done at the Central Office. However, it did take 13 years for this to happen.

Although WCSU works well together, there are other Supervisory Unions throughout the State of Vermont that don't work well together. My peers tell me many of them operate with 6 union agreements and their boards don't work together on joint bidding etc...I told my peers I would express this concern in my testimony.

WCSU is comprised of 5 Elementary Schools, a 7-12 Union School and the Supervisory Union. In total, there are 7 boards comprised of 32 members. In reviewing the past 11 years, WCSU has had considerable turnover in School Board members. The turnover of School Board members is a concern, as it directly slows down progress.

On average, the Union School Board Members have turned over 13% while the Elementary School Board Members have turned over 29%.

By school, the School Board turnover is as follows:

Doty Memorial (Worcester) 44%, Berlin Elementary 35%, East Montpelier Elementary 31%

Calais Elementary 18%, Rumney Memorial (Middlesex) 16%, U-32 Middle/High School 13%

I don't know what the right governance solution is, but I believe a better system is needed to retain School Board members, reduce costs and to improve the educational opportunities for the students in Vermont.

Thank you for the opportunity to share this information.