

WAITSFIELD BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 19, 2012, 7:00 pm
Waitsfield Elementary School

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Scott Kingsbury, Todd White, Eve Frankel and Helen Kellogg

WWSU AND WES STAFF PRESENT: Kaiya Korb, Brigid Scheffert, Michelle Baker, Jeremy Hill.

CALL TO ORDER: Eve Frankel called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Scott Kingsbury made a motion to approve the minutes from October 15, 2012. Helen Kellogg seconded and the minutes were unanimously approved. Helen Kellogg made a motion to approve the minutes from October 1, 2012. Scott Kingsbury seconded and the minutes were unanimously approved. Todd White noted a correction in the November 9, 2012 that Todd White voted against the allocation of excess loan proceeds to the town. With that correction, Todd White made a motion to approve the amended minutes and Scott Kingsbury seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

DISCUSSION

- Audience and Written Communication - none submitted

- Review of first draft of 2013-2014 budget. This years' budget is a 6.28% increase. That said, it has limited staffing changes; most of the increase drivers are fixed costs. There will be a reduction of a 3rd/4th teacher balanced with the increase of a kindergarten teacher; we anticipate a savings in this transition. There will be an increase in paraprofessional (.5) and nursing (.3) support. MAC funds (drawn from Medicaid) will help offset the nurse position increase. There is an increased need for special education contracted support that drives 1.7% of the increase. These increases are in response to some extraordinary student needs. Waitsfield Elementary has a number of significant special needs students at this time. However, it has been able to keep special education costs per pupil at a cost that is below state averages. This budget also includes a 15% increase in health insurance costs. We have preschool partnership program costs given that this year there were more students interested in the 4 year old program than we had space to accommodate; thus, we pay for those students to attend partnership schools, the costs of which are built into the following year's budget. Transportation costs are driven by maintenance of the fleet and recalculation across the routes. There is some offsetting revenue to the transportation costs. The fund balance is proposed at \$22K, which appears as a reduction in our revenues as we has a fund balance of \$70K the year prior. This budget and reduced revenues net to an estimated 10.4%

increase, which would put us past the two vote threshold – title 16 section 563. This is invoked when your budget is over the statewide average cost per pupil. A two vote threshold requires you ask the voters two budget questions to call out the increase above inflation. Eve Frankel noted the likely community concerns around this increase and suggested that the budget presentation at town meeting and before needs to convey both the thoughtfulness behind the numbers proposed and the nature of the state education funding formula.

- Identify public relations actions around budget: the board discussed a letter to the parents for the newsletter and a letter to the editor of the Valley Reporter from the Board.
- Prevention of Bullying of Students (first reading): No changes were requested. The board will come back to this policy for adoption at the following meeting.

REPORTS

- Financial Report: Kaiya reviewed the financial report and noted a current deficit of \$8K. She is holding spending in several places to offset.
- Principal's Report: Kaiya celebrated the volunteerism demonstrated at the ski and skate sale. PTA budget is secured. Professional development continues around the school. The school will ramp up on Google docs training.
- Washington West Representative Report: no meeting held this month.
- Superintendent's Report: Brigid just returned from China.

ADJOURNMENT

Eve Frankel adjourned the meeting by consensus at 8:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Kellogg
Secretary & Clerk