

**Waitsfield Elementary School**  
**WAITSFIELD BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS MINUTES**  
April 15, 2013, 7pm  
Waitsfield Elementary School Library

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Rob Williams called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm.

**ATTENDEES**

**Board members:** Todd White, Eve Frankel, Allison Champlin, Rob Williams, Helen Kellogg

**Community Members:** Jeannette Kingsbury, Amy Scharges, Jennifer Stella, Adam Greshin

**WES and WWSU staff:** Kaiya Korb, Brigid Scheffert, Sheila Rivers, Michelle Baker.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Eve Frankel made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 18th meeting. Todd White seconded and the motion was unanimously approved. Todd White made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. Eve Frankel seconded and that motion was approved, with Rob Williams and Allison Champlin abstaining.

**DISCUSSION**

**Audience and Written Communication:** Several community members came to discuss Common Core state standards, assessment of these standards and federal funding. Kaiya noted this was an opportunity to gather community questions and concerns, and that, if merited, the topic could be slated on a future board meeting allowing for all interested community members to participate in the conversation as well as staff and board to provide thoughtful answers.

Amy Scharges inquired on the role of federal funding and changes to the FERPA act in relation to Common Core implementation. She raised concerns about our ability to limit the amount of personally identifiable information collected and shared, particularly through the SLDS (state longitudinal data survey). Todd White inquired as to our ability to opt out of some of the elements of data collection. Jeannette Kingsbury noted that it appears that one can't opt out of the data collection if one wants funding. Questions were asked regarding how lack of compliance with testing or data reporting expectations, as a school or individuals, would effect our education budget. Jennifer Stella noted her son's concerns after being asked personal questions on the NAEP test administered in February; he was asked family details, which she believes should be asked of parents not of minors.

Rob Williams summarized the concerns/questions articulated thus far: 1) Federal over-reach into school business 2) Data mining/ data security 3) Appropriateness of content of questions in the NAEP test survey.

Jennifer Stella also shared concern regarding corporate sponsors of Common Core work and raised concerns about the impact of potential nationalization of standards. Amy Scharges raised concerns around Google's ability to gather information and the school's adoption of Google tools for schools this year.

Kaiya reiterated the school's focus on protecting kids' personal information and guarding kids' data. Additionally, she noted that regardless of who has invested in the Common Core, Waitsfield Elementary School is not under any requirement to purchase materials from anyone. The standards are learning expectations, not a curriculum. The work of identifying a curriculum continues to fall to supervisory unions and decisions about curricular materials are still the purview of individual schools.

Brigid summarized the concerns and agreed to follow up on the following: 1) What are the legal boundaries to what individuals or a school can choose to participate in/opt out of regarding testing or data collection? What are the funding ramifications of these opt outs? 2) How does the assessment tool (SPAC) facilitate data mining?

Jennifer Stella added concerns that VT is already delivering an excellent education that will not need to be overhauled by Common Core standards. Eve shared her sense that VT was already working towards very high standards, but that large areas of the country are not funded and structured currently to succeed with the common core.

**2011-2012 Audit Report Review** (Michelle Baker) Michelle offered to answer any questions regarding the annually completed audit review. She referenced the management letter, which included a concerns regarding management of the petty cash checking account. Kaiya and Michelle are implementing procedural changes to address the issue identified, although purchasing of apps for ipads continues to be somewhat problematic. The board accepted the audit.

**NECAP Scores Review:** Sheila Rivers reviewed various ways in which the scores can responsibly be used and explained the value of scaled scores in understanding greater nuances of student achievement. NECAP is useful for tracking trends and looking across schools. It is not designed for tracking individual students, given that it's only given once a year. Looking at reading and math, WES is holding steady statistically speaking. With the exception of one very small class, the writing and science results are similarly steady. Kaiya noted the almost across the board, students who have been in our school for more than 2 years have scaled scores that show improvement beyond a years growth.

**Review of Policy G11: Animals in Schools (local policy).** At the beginning of the year we agreed to review our local-only policies. Animals in Schools is not a required policy, however Kaiya feels it continues to be useful to have our expectations articulated for all. The. One change requested was the addition of "where appropriate" for the required animal vaccines. Jennifer Stella noted the risk of live virus vaccines shed by a newly vaccinated pet. Kaiya wants to ensure that there is a clear instructional or therapeutic purpose to the visit. The board reviewed the policy and it will be brought back for

adoption at the next meeting.

**Identify time/date for annual retreat:** The board retreat is time to look over the work of the year and set the goals for the coming year. The board will retreat on June 10<sup>th</sup> from 3:30 – 7:30 at WES.

## **REPORTS**

**Financial Report** – while we currently show a \$4K deficit, Kaiya feels confident that we will end the year in the black. All budgets are frozen to ensure this.

**Principal's Report** - the focus of the last month has been hiring. We've also worked on the climate survey and the technology plan. Staff is deeply engaged in supporting student behavior expectations to increase accessibility for learning. The BEST Conference will support that process.

**Washington West Representative Report** – meeting cancelled without a quorum.

**Superintendent's report** – focus is on contracts and all is going smoothly. Brigid is also focused on the legislative work underway.

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Todd White made a motion to go into executive session on a matter of personnel. Eve Frankel seconded and the board moved in to executive session at 8:55pm. The board came out of executive session at 9:12pm.

Eve Frankel made a motion to go into executive session on a matter of real estate. Todd White seconded and the board went into executive session at 9:13pm.

The board came out of executive session at 9:24 pm.

## **ACTION**

Todd White made a motion to confirm the superintendent's recommendation to hire Eric Mongeon for the Librarian/Tech Integrationist. Allison Champlin seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25pm. The next meeting is May 6<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Following that we will meet on May 20, 2013 at 7pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Kellogg  
Secretary & Clerk