

Waitsfield Elementary School
WAITSFIELD BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS Minutes
September 16, 2013 7:00 PM
Waitsfield Elementary School

ATTENDEES

Board Members Present: Eve Frankel, Todd White, Helen Kellogg, Allison Champlin, Rob Williams

WES and WWSU Members: Kaiya Korb, Brigid Scheffert

Community Members: Mary Pearson

CALL TO ORDER

Rob Williams called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Eve Frankel made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 26th board meeting. Todd White seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

DISCUSSION

Audience and written communication - None submitted.

Board Education: Admission of Resident and Non-Resident Students

F13 Admission of Resident Students: By state statute, a resident student is any child who has a parent living in the town, regardless of if the parent is the legal custodian. It allows that Parents or guardians of students who are residents of the district and enrolled in school for two-thirds of the school year, and who move before the school year ends, may apply to the Building Administrator for permission to finish the school year on a prorated tuition basis or with a tuition waiver.

F14 Admission of Non-Resident Students: the policy states that non resident students will be admitted when space is available and if those students do not have access to educational programming within their sending district.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Helen Kellogg made a motion to move into executive session on a student matter. Todd White seconded and the board went to into executive session at 7:22. The board invited Kaiya Korb, Brigid Scheffert and Mary Pearson to join executive session. The board came out of executive session at 7:50pm.

ACTION: Allison Champlin made a motion to uphold the policy (F14) and

thereby deny the request made by Mary Pearson. Eve Frankel seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

DISCUSSION

Letter from the chair of the Fayston School Board regarding task forces.

Heidi Spear, the Fayston Board Chair, is looking for board representatives to engage with the two following topics:

1) a programming task force to build enrichment opportunities for students with combined resources from multiple schools.

2) a task force around education finance reform, to demonstrate the consolidation does not necessarily translate to cost savings. Rob Williams recommended that the board reflect offline and reach out directly to Heidi and others who might be interested in engaging. Kaiya noted that these efforts are already underway amongst the administrators and will benefit from but not be dependent on the participation of additional members.

Rob requested that this topic be revisited at the next meeting of the Board to determine if further organized board action be taken.

ACTION

The Board reviewed these policies (not procedures, which are for information only) for adoption. Helen Kellogg made a motion to approve the policies in packet #3 listed below. Eve Frankel seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Policy Packet #3

E1: Fiscal Management and general financial accountability

E2 Budgeting

E3 Financial reports and statement

E4 Risk Management

E5 Emergency Closings

E6 Safety and Security of School Facilities

E7-R School Crisis Prevention & Response

E&-R-P Procedures for Bomb threats

E8-R Tobacco prohibition

E8R-P Procedures for Tobacco Prohibition

E9 Comprehensive HIV policy for schools Pre-K-12

E9-P Comprehensive HIV procedures for schools Pre-K - 12

F1R Student Conduct and Discipline

F1 R -P Procedures for student conduct

F3 Search, Seizure, and Interrogation of student by school personnel

F4 Searches, Seizures, and interrogation of students by law enforcement personnel or other non-school personnel

F5-R Education Records
F6 Student Medication
F7-R Student Alcohol and drugs
F7-R-P procedures for student alcohol and drugs
F9-R transportation
C6-R Notice of nondiscrimination
D1-P Criminal and abuse registry checks in Vermont schools
D6-R Substitute teachers
D12-R Harassment of employees

REPORTS:

Financial Report: expected in October

Principals report: highlights include - the technology arrangement of two new positions - library and technology integrated into one role- as well as a focused systems support person, both proving powerful and productive. Enrollment is at 159 for this year and we're seeing a large kindergarten class coming in next year. Also, funding has come through the North Branch Nature Center that will enable the current kindergarteners to have 30 days of ECO program outdoors, which is a significant jump relative to last year. NECAPs have arrived in the school and are a component but not the primary tool in our local assessment plan.

WWSU Executive Committee Report: Significant work brought forth the latest policy revisions. More policy work lies ahead. Eve noted successful use of dialog around "sexting" at Harwood Union HS, and the community has benefitted greatly from increased communication around the issue, especially between parents and students. Brigid noted that the conversation was raised publicly as soon as the criminal investigation was completed, and in no way delayed from public dialog. Eve noted that there are several unfunded mandates coming down the pipeline that will impact the WWSU administration in the coming year, and represents a significant amount of work for all involved. Key impacts will include budgeting, bargaining, and beyond. Helen Kellogg thanked Eve for her incredible strength, passion, intellect and heart in leading the WWSU executive committee.

Superintendent's Report: The board received a lengthy report that should serve as a resource for us throughout the year, including key data points for communicating with the community at town meeting. Brigid noted the volume of mandates coming through and the need to map them into a work plan. Per statute, school board chairs and superintendents will engage in a minimum of 8 hours of professional development going forward to support the work ahead.

Also, the WWSU has developed a strong approach and structure for hiring practices, which will serve as a comprehensive tool for all of the WWSU. This past year's hiring decisions led to \$19,000 savings for WES, specifically. Brigid will be working on two themes this year: 1) moving in to work around common core and separate that from the assessment tool. SBAC assessments are a requirement not a defining tool. 2) Students voice is essential for gathering student opinion at the end of every course from grades 7-12 on their thoughts, perceptions and reflections on the class they just took. This would be a simple survey and separate from the performance evaluation of the teacher. Giving constructive feedback is an essential skill to be developed. Finally, the WWSU budget came out \$12,000 in the black.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Eve Frankel made a motion to go into executive session on a matter of personnel. Todd White seconded and the motion went into executive session at 8:40 pm. The board came out of executive session at 8:55 pm. No action was required.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm. The next meeting will be Monday October 21st at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Kellogg
Clerk and Secretary