

**Waitsfield Elementary School**  
WAITSFIELD BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS  
Annual Retreat  
Minutes  
June 5, 2014 4:00 PM  
Williams Home

ATTENDEES

**Board Members Present:** Helen Kellogg, Allison Champlin, Rob Williams, Eve Frankel, Christine Sullivan

**WES and WWSU Members:** Kaiya Korb, Brigid Scheffert

**Community Members:** Ben Loveless

**CALL TO ORDER**

Rob Williams called the meeting to order at 4:20 pm.

RETREAT

Our goal is to think broadly about the next year and 3-5 years, with a focus on the role of the school board. A list of questions were posed prior to the meeting for discussion and prioritization.

- Eve noted that teacher negotiation this year could be difficult given the changes in the healthcare system and the expectation for each to have more “skin in the game.” Eve is also focused on the optimization of the school community. She sees the exciting work underway and encouraging us to keep the visioning going
- Allison inquired as to any changes in retirement planning for teachers. She’s interested in the legislative piece and community connections, as well as making our school community the best it can be.
- Helen urged the group to communicate the energy and investment (largely in volunteer hours) outward throughout the year to help the community connect with the school. She also stressed the importance of supporting the legislative efforts underway to restructure the financing of schools.
- Christine noted the importance of community development and union negotiation, as well as legislative change.

- Brigid spoke to the full suite of negotiations scheduled for next year and the approach we'll take.
- Eve noted the importance of board attendance at staff meetings.
- Ben advocated for community involvement and specifically how and where money is spent. He and his wife work with the teenage population and sees the importance of a solid start for kids.
- Kaiya asked about reaching people who are seeking out information versus those who are not but who may have a sense of it being a good school. She recommends picking one of two messages and reinforce them throughout the year.
- Rob is focused on the school as a community learning center, the schools are drivers of quality of life and shape economic activity, the big picture K-12 and how we condition families to think about the full span of years, and finally the potential for a regular valley reporter column.
- Allison added that 5-6<sup>th</sup> graders could write the articles weekly. Kaiya added that the pictures would drive it, so we should ask kids to take pictures.
- Christine added that the school could host the Waitsfield Play group.
- There is a difference between the messages of the board (budget, legislative support) and the messages of the school.

Recommendation:

Rob proposes that he and Eve continue on the legislative agendas (Rob Rosen's governance and Heidi Spear's finance). Kaiya asked Brigid about other legislative agendas that are moving forward and how we communicate that back to boards. Specifically Brigid confirmed that all towns are now required to provide pre-school programming for 3 and 4 year olds, up to 10 hours a week, with an option of choice. All day care considerations become the driving force for participation. Brigid also noted that many well intentioned bills are passed without implementation plans or funding structures.

Negotiations – Helen will be the lead for negotiations with Christine as alternate. We will focus on a unified front on behalf of the whole board.

Community Outreach – Kaiya appreciated the role of authentic voice for kids, and having separate message and vehicle for the board. Christine noted the need for well interpreted/framed analysis for big school topics (Sheila Rivers on NECAP scores). Rob recommends a monthly calendar and cadence of communication messages.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Eve Frankel made a motion to approve the May 19, 2014 minutes. Allison Champlin seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

## **DISCUSSION**

**Audience and Written Communication:** none submitted.

## **ACTION**

Policy: Eve Frankel made a motion to approve the following policies en masse. Christine Sullivan seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

- F10 Student Activities and Interscholastic sports
- F13: Admission of Resident Students
- F14: Admission of Non-resident Tuition Students
- F19-R: Limited English Proficiency
- F21 – R: Firearms
- F23 – R: Participation of Home Study Students
- F24 – R: Hazing
- F26: Use of Seclusion and Restraint
- F27 – R: Pupil Privacy Rights

Eve Frankel made a motion to move for adoption at the June meeting, policy packet 4, as identified and listed on the agenda. Allison Champlin seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Tax Anticipation Note: The school needs to borrow to pay bills before the tax stream comes in. We are eligible to borrow the maximum amount and invest it for the duration of the note. If/where interest earned exceeds the costs of the note, we capture that income as a revenue stream. WES is eligible to borrow \$410K. Helen Kellogg made a motion to approve the tax anticipation note with Peoples United bank for \$410,000 for fiscal year 2015. Christine Sullivan seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Fuel Bids: The WWSU received several fuel bids. Michelle Baker recommends a 6000 gallon pre-purchase from Gillespie at \$3.30 per gallon. Eve Frankel made a motion to authorize a 6000

gallon pre-purchase from Gillespie at \$3.30 per gallon. Rob Williams seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Payroll Authorization: Christine Sullivan made a motion to authorize payroll board orders in accordance with the FY 2015 Employee Contracts and Letters of Employment. Allison Champlin seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

## **REPORTS**

**Principal's Report:** Kaiya is focused on communicating an excellence ROI so to speak, throughout the year through evidence of excellence. She will pursue teachers to capture evidence of excellence in their classrooms, often in students voices. The aim is to talk about and focus on excellence throughout the year. Brigid added a student survey at the end of each year or course to get feedback on what they liked, what they would like to see more of and what the teacher needs to know. Kaiya attended 3 musical performances in valley elementary schools and noted the joy and enthusiasm of our performers.

**Superintendent's Report:** Brigid spoke to the Bringham intent to produce equal opportunity and to the need to balance the offering across the state. The WWSU needs to think pre-K – 12 and what we offer students and families as a core of economic development. Quality + value = spending is the theme. It is a slow process but one that we are working on and seeing progress.

**Washington West Representative Report:** Eve is looking for the top three topics to bring back to the WWSU executive committee. She anticipating governance will be key. She's also thinking about generating opportunities for creativity with our afterschool efforts and the use of other limited resources. Allison inquired about crossover opportunities between Crosset Brook and Harwood Middle School. Helen noted the success of recent shared services partnerships and the potential to carve a dedicated window at the executive committee in which opportunities or needs are surfaced for inter-district engagement.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Rob Williams made a motion to go into executive session on matters of employment contract. Allison Champlin seconded and the board went into executive session at 7:16 pm. The board came out of executive session at 7:18.

**ACTION:** Helen Kellogg made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent Scheffert to offer Nancy Robinson a .1 position contract as a health teacher. Allison Champlin seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:22. The next meeting will be June 17, 2014 at 6 pm at the Waitsfield Elementary School.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Kellogg  
Clerk and Secretary