

Waitsfield Elementary School
WAITSFIELD BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS Minutes
May 19, 2014 7:00 PM
Waitsfield Elementary School

ATTENDEES

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

WES and WWSU Members: Kaiya Korb, Brigid Scheffert

Community Members: none present

CALL TO ORDER

Rob Williams called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Eve Frankel made a motion to approve the April 28, 2014 minutes. Allison Champlin seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

DISCUSSION

Audience and Written Communication: none submitted.

Updated Action Plan: Kaiya focused on the Action Plan that carried us through this year and the accomplishments within that plan. We reviewed a summary of the goals and results produced. Within literacy, steps included: implementation of a literacy profile, common throughout the SU, an MTSS (multi-tiered system of supports) that are success-based rather than predicated on failure as special education has been in the past, and authentic writing opportunities with peer sharing. In math, coaching and systems of interventions are also key elements in supporting a student struggling in math. On school climate, our success is measured through the PBIS program surveys. The program has a consistent positive reinforcement element in addition to clear negative behavior management. Teachers' presence on the school website is strong and growing. Other areas explored include bus safety, recess, music, French, and school lunch. Kaiya inquired as to the boards' desire to have more curriculum presentation. The board discussed the opportunity to recruit more parent participation in those presentations going forward. On technology, all staff were asked to list tech goals for the year and reflect on their progress against those.

Service Meal Pricing Recommendations: Numbers show that participation/sales did not drop with an increase in rates undertaken by other schools. Any increase we recommend will have to be taken into consideration with Fayston. Currently our general fund contributes ~\$7,000 a year as a subsidy. Kaiya recommends a \$.25 increase. The board expressed interest in that recommendation. Kaiya will pass that along to the Fayston board for consideration. Brigid noted that most school lunch programs run at a deficit.

ACTION

Policy:

- 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.

Food service RFP review: The school is exploring the option to contract out the school lunch program. We received two bids: the Abbey Group proposal came in at ~\$5,701 as a total cost not including the contribution from each school. Fitz Vogt has a combined cost of ~\$20,577. The clear learning is that going on our own would be most costly. Brigid spoke to the strength of the Abbey Group from prior experience, but also noted that moving to them would be a step away from the home-made meals we currently enjoy. Brigid noted the option to reach out to Harwood to understand the potential to centralize the SU. Rob recommends moving forward for the next year with the current program and spend the next year researching options and seeing the Abbey Group in action. Kaiya noted the impact of the face of the person service the food on the impression of the food. Rob Williams made a motion to reject the RFPs received, to continue with the current provider and to continue to investigate options. Eve Frankel seconded and the motion was unanimously approved

REPORTS

Financial Report: Kaiya projects a \$540 fund balance. \$37,210 remains as anticipated, but not yet spend, in the general fund.

Principal's Report: Kaiya spoke to the impact of the Arts Fair, walk & roll, and other events on the broader community. The artist in residence has created a space that draws kids to this previously under utilized portion of our school grounds. She noted the incredible amount of volunteer hours put in to make the residency possible. Sandy Lawton, Chris Cook, Kirsten Seibert, Elizabeth Cadwell, Eleanor Daponte, among others, gave significant time and energy. The video produced was very well received. The walk & roll program had 88% participation by students. The Bridge Street Art Fair was really well received, along with a few suggestions to improve the bike and walk parade safety. There is hiring underway for a para-educator, a health position, and the 5/6 theater program. A draft schedule for classes is in staff hands at this point in the year. Kaiya has built a Facebook page for the school and welcomes feedback on that as a tool for getting information out. She will always post information in other vehicles as well. Placement meetings are wrapping up. Currently there are 18 enrolled in the kindergarten class, with a second adult planned to be with Ann Beatie next year.

Superintendent's Report: Brigid is focused on the hiring season and in the process of written evaluations of key staff and administrators. Retreat planning is also underway. She is busy in Montpelier with the new secretary of education. Teacher and principal effectiveness tools at the state level will become a reference for our SU. The new education quality standards will come out with the new board startup kit. Bill 884 (school consolidation) is gaining attention. Vermont is struggling to keep up with retirement funding. To address this, every new teacher will require a \$1072 fee every year for as long as they are in service. Current teachers are grandfathered out of the program. The bill has passed, but the topic remains that this shifts the burden to the taxpayers. Eve noted that this is one of many areas that are being underfunded by the state that will be an insidious increase on our budgets. Brigid spoke to the two task forces, one being lead by Heidi Spear from Fayston, exploring alternative models for education funding.

Washington West Representative Report: Eve cited the special ed report in which WES emerges as efficient in our use of para-educators and other resources. All executive committee members were asked to bring their top three ideas to the June meeting that they would like addressed by the Executive Committee. Eve noted governance as a key topic. She also spoke to looking at the SU from Waterbury to Warren, with Harwood as the common denominator and asking if we are pooling our resources in an extracurricular way

to help kids connect with schools around common interest. WES board will bring their ideas to Eve at our next meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Rob Williams made a motion to go into executive session on matters of personnel employment. Christine Sullivan seconded and the board went into executive session at 8:34. The board came out of executive session at 8:35.

ACTION: Helen Kellogg made a motion to offer Emily Church the contract as previously agreed upon for the 2014-15 school year. Allison Champlin seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Rob Williams made a motion to go into executive session on a matter of personnel contract. Eve Frankel seconded and the board went in to executive session at 8:35 on a matter of personnel contract. The board came out of executive session at 8:45. No action was taken.

Rob Williams made a motion to go in to executive session on a matter of disciplinary action. Christine Sullivan seconded and the board went into executive session at 8:45. The board came out of executive session at 8:50. No action was taken.

ACTION

Eve Frankel made a motion to hire Emily Smith as a .4 French teacher. Allison Champlin seconded and the motion was unanimously approved. Eve Frankel make a motion to hire Clayton Wetzel for a .2 nurse position. Christine Sullivan seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:59. The next meeting and board retreat will be June 5th 2014 at 4 pm at the home of Rob Williams., 98 Wallis Woods Road, Waitsfield.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Kellogg
Clerk and Secretary