

Waitsfield Elementary Board of School Directors
Meeting Minutes
May 16, 2015
7 p.m. Waitsfield School Library

Attendees: Eve Frankel, Christine Sullivan, Barclay Rappeport, Jonathan Goldhammer WWSU employees and staff: Kaiya Korb, Brigid Scheffert

Call to Order

7:02 Eva called the meeting to order.

Audience and Written Communication No additions/edits to the agenda were made.

Audience and Written Communication None shared.

Educational Legislation and Political Activity update Brigid recently shared notification regarding the new education funding bill that has passed. She will, in the near future, share a “cheat sheet” summarizing the bill and its anticipated impact. The September meeting of the Executive Committee will be focused predominantly on this bill. Brigid also anticipates that there will be a need for some full supervisory union meetings to discuss bringing this sweeping legislation into action. Eve noted that this will not be business moving forward; she anticipates some board chair discussions regarding this over the summer.

Kaiya offered that she feels that there is an opportunity in this new legislation to address some of the concerns that have been raised in our communities. Christine has concerns that by allowing some districts to spend more than a set cap, there will not be any cost containment ultimately. Brigid believes that we have the capacity, through stable leadership and invested boards and staff, to capitalize on some of the savings and opportunities in the legislation.

Policy Packet #5 This is the first reading of the policies including: F-28-R Federal Child Nutrition Act Wellness Policy; F-29 Student Self-Expression and Student Distribution of Literature; G-1 Curriculum Development and Coordination; G-3 Field Trips; G4 Selecting Library Materials; G5 Selections of Instructional Materials; G7 Educational Support System, G8 Local Action Plan; g9-R Grade Advancement: Retention, Promotion, and Acceleration of Students; G12 –R Title I Comparability; G12 R Animal Dissection; H1 School- Community Relations; H2 Parental Involvement; H3 Community Use of School Facilities

Given that feedback has been provided already, board members were comfortable moving these policies forward. These policies will be warned for adoption at the June School Board meeting.

Action Plan Progress Report Given that

Approval of April 27, 2015 minutes Barclay Rappeport moved to accept the minutes, Jonathan Goldhammer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Approve Board Order Jonathan moved to approve the board order in the amount \$15,271.71. Barclay seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Renew Valley Technology Coordinator Memorandum of Understanding Jonothan made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding and authorize the board chair to sign the agreement on behalf of the board. Eva seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

French Teacher Hiring The hiring committee, which included Rachel Rosenblum, Helen Kellogg, Emily Smith and Kaiya Korb interviewed three candidates; each of the candidates also taught a model lesson at the school. Barclay moved to approve Laura Wedel, the candidate nominated by the hiring committee and Superintendent Scheffert. . Christine seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Board retreat: The Board retreat will occur on Thursday August 20, 4:30 – 8 p.m. This meeting will take the place of the regularly scheduled August meeting. Due to a conflict with graduation, the June meeting is moved to June 8, 2015 7p.m.

Financial Report While projected spending is down 1.5% from what was budgeted, , projected revenue is also down 1.3%. Currently, a fund balance of \$3,098 is anticipated at the end of the year. This is a conservative estimate.

Principal's Report The Bridge Street Art Fair on Saturday was a success; kudos were given to Nora McDonough and Alex Morse for all of their organization of this event. Commendation was also given to Susan Laskaris for stepping into her role as lead teacher in one of our 3rd/4th grade classrooms while a staff member is out on medical leave; Susan has supported a very smooth transition.

Kaiya has been looking at the additional work (more parent conferences, more data documentation of individual growth) created by having 18 students in the incoming 3 year old class and also looking at preschool preparation time in comparison to other schools. A proposal for addition of some further preschool teaching staff time will be brought to the next board meeting.

Washington West Representative Report At the last meeting, Donarae Dawson, Director of Student Services, presented a broad overview of staffing and needs in support services across the supervisory union. Discussion included noting that schools are taking on more and more social service roles. There are increased costs as a result of these social services. That said, our staffing at Watisfield School is well below state averages while our student success is fairly high.

WWSU is moving forward with a transportation contract that will increase by 7.5% in the first year and 3% in each of the following years, while also cycling in a new fleet of buses.

Office lease agreement to stay at Mad River Park for the next three years approved.

Superintendent's Report Predominant foci include the new education legislation, collected bargaining for the negotiated agreement and hiring season. All new hires meeting with Brigid; Eva noted that while some Supervisory Unions have h.r. departments, all of that work is done by Brigid.

Executive Session Jonathan moved that the board go into Executive session on a matter of personnel: Evaluation with Brigid Scheffert invited to remain at 8:40 p.m. Christine seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Kaiya Korb was asked to join the Executive Session at 8:54 p.m. The board came out of Executive Session at 9:01 p.m.
The meeting adjourned by consensus at 9:01 p.m.