

Waitsfield Elementary School
WAITSFIELD BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
DRAFT Minutes
Monday September 21, 2015

ATTENDEES

Board Members Present: Christine Sullivan, Barclay Rappeport, Jonathon Goldhammer

WWSU and WES Members: Kaiya Korb, Brigid Nease

CALL TO ORDER

Christine Sullivan called the meeting to order at 7:32pm.

Additions or Edits to the Agenda - Kaiya suggested that we hold on the school visioning process agenda item until more members are available.

Audience and Written communication - None

Education Legislation and Political Activity Update- Brigid will continue to forward all materials via email including any attachments. The next topic coming out will be calculations around cost containment. They will calculate dollars cut to meet state threshold to show effects. Thresholds will be in effect for FY17 & FY18.

There are 26 Supervisory Unions considering accelerated merger. 12 have begun the process already.

Annual School Meeting Change Follow-Up - Waitsfield Select Board voted to change the time of the annual Town Meeting. The annual Town Meeting will now begin at 5pm, with space for the annual School Meeting to begin at 4pm. Kaiya investigated the legality of changing the time and found that it is acceptable to simply warn of the time change; only date changes need to be voted on by the electorate. Kaiya requested to be included in any publications regarding the new town meeting.

Action: Propose new school meeting time at October board meeting.

Letter to the community - The letter written by Eva Frankel was distributed and reviewed. The board agreed that the overall message was correct and some grammatical corrections were suggested.

Board Work Calendar- Physical Education will present curriculum this year as will Early Education. Neither of these have been presented in the past 4 years.

SBAC Scores - Scores have been released broadly for school and for the state. Student reports will be sent home in the following week. The state will be sending out instructions in how to analyze the data in October. Kaiya has begun to unpack the data and, post this training, will work further with staff on doing so as well. A full report will be made out to the Board in October.

Action

Approval of minutes from August 20, 2015. Jonathon Goldhammer moved, Barclay Rappeport seconded. Unanimous acceptance.

2015-16 Food Services Agreement – The food service agreement remains unchanged from 2014-15. There was discussion regarding the viability of the program and funding. Food cost has gone up. Christine Sullivan moved to authorize Kaiya to sign food service agreement. Barclay Rappeport second. Unanimous acceptance.

Approving the board order – Jonathon Goldhammer moved to approve voucher #1037 in the amount of \$33,169.60. Barclay Rappeport second. Unanimous acceptance.

Authorization of Signator – The process needs to authorize a board member to review the bills for pre-approval for payment in advance of a board meeting. That member would then present the voucher/board warrant for motion to confirm the pre-approval. Christine Sullivan made a motion to appoint Jonathon Goldhammer to review bills and pre-approve payment in advance of the board meeting. Barclay Rappeport second. Unanimous acceptance.

Act 46 Study Committee Authorization Christine Sullivan moved that we form a study committee with the other member districts of Washington West to analyze the feasibility of forming a union school district under Act 46. Jonathon Goldhammer second. Unanimous acceptance.

There was discussion regarding the pros and cons of accelerated merger. Michelle and Brigid are creating cost per pupil document, breaking out by category to allow visibility of where the expenditures and revenue are regarding the budgeting in order to make the best decision for the school community. Asset distribution was discussed in that many questions have not been considered at this point. There are benefits for every town that must be sought out. The challenge for WES will be the population shifts that will be forthcoming. At the moment WES has a small kindergarten but large P-3 program. Barclay Rappeport moved to appoint Christine Sullivan to the study committee in order to be compliant with 16 VSA Section 706. Jonathon Goldhammer second. Unanimous acceptance.

The executive committee voted to appropriate \$3500 from each town in order to begin the work of the study committee and to cover expenses; this appropriation needs to be authorized. Jonathon Goldhammer moved to approve the appropriate amount of \$3500 that the executive committee is requesting to begin the study committee to cover our proportionate share in those expenditures. Barclay Rappeport second. Unanimous acceptance.

Financial Report We will have a financial report for FY2016 in October. Kaiya commented that we are in a position where our current needs do not match the special education FTE needs that we have, but there isn't really any change that can be made at this time. She is watching this situation and adjusting wherever possible.

FY2015 ended with a fund balance of \$1,481. Revenues were -1.3% than budgeted. Expenditures were -1.3% as well. Spending overages were in transportation (addition of preschool bus) Food Service costs rose due to fewer students purchasing lunch in the spring. Preschool special education needs also grew, and aren't reimbursed at the same rate as other special education costs.

Food Service Report Actual cost was \$11,359 for FY2015. There was an increase in food costs of \$5000 that was unanticipated. Our target is 160 lunches between two schools. The average was 144.

Principal's Report There will be questions shared at Open House about parents' value of the school and what they would like to see, as well as questions about what people understand about proficiency based learning, which will be followed up with further information and study circles through the year. All staff are being asked to develop a

personalized learning plan (PLP) for themselves in the same way we are asking the 5th & 6th graders to form PLPs. Kaiya reflected that goals are being set quite high and is encouraged by the results.

There will be a valley wide meeting of the Safe Routes to School committee next week. This is an opportunity to collaborate on safe routes with other schools.

The Mad River Valley Recreation District is looking for grant applicants. The grounds visioning committee has been working on a plan for our outdoor space. One of the ideas has been to create an amphitheater near the stone labyrinth. Additionally more playing fields have been discussed. Jonathon advised that the timing is typically by the end of the year.

The professional work that happened on 9/4 was spent with the first part of the day speaker, Katie Novak, speaking about being responsive to students and best practice in teaching. K-4 classroom teachers then moved to workshops with Katie. 5/6 teachers worked with technology programs. Next in-service day will be on October 13th. Shared meetings will begin in October amongst all the valley schools.

Superintendent's report – Brigid shared her report on Sunday via email; she answered any questions about the materials she had shared.

Adjournment

Christine Sullivan adjourned the meeting at 8:44pm.

Respectfully submitted by Barclay Rappeport.