

Waitsfield Elementary School
WAITSFIELD BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS Minutes
April 28, 2014 7:00 PM
Waitsfield Elementary School

ATTENDEES

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

WES and WWSU Members: Kaiya Korb, Brigid Scheffert

Community Members: Elizabeth Cadwell, Chris Badger

CALL TO ORDER

Rob Williams called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Allison Champlin made a motion to approve the March 17th minutes. Eve Frankel seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Eve Frankel made a motion to approve the March 4th town meeting minutes. Helen Kellogg seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

DISCUSSION

Audience and Written Communication:

Elizabeth Cadwell shared concern over the attendance/truancy letter sent out earlier in the month, expressing concern over the severity of the tone. She suggested that such a letter should be preceded with a personal call to foster a spirit of partnership, as opposed to the alienating tone of the letter. Kaiya appreciated Elizabeth's feedback and the desire to confirm partnership. She also noted the need to be equitable in how the school speaks to all families and addresses the importance of truancy on behalf of children. Eve added the importance of being consistent with all families and not tailor the message based on real or perceived knowledge of the child or family. The school is seeing a growing issue with truancy and lateness. Brigid highlighted that within state law, there is a difference between an excused and an unexcused absence. Kaiya

offered that going forward, we will continue to insure that personal contact is part of our reaching out regarding truancy/attendance concerns.

Food Service report & program update: Kaiya noted that the meal costs has dropped as a result of increased participation. As a result, the annual costs to the school will match the initial budget allocation. Kaiya added that an RFP to food service providers has been issued; proposals are due back April 30th, which the board will review at the May meeting. These proposals will provide us with comparables for our current program.

ACTION

MOU for WWSU (Valley Schools) Tech Coordinator: This position was created last year to support technology needs in schools across the Mad River Valley. WES supports a .4 portion of the salary and benefits and benefits significantly from an efficiency and technology standpoint. Helen Kellogg made a motion to approve the MOU WSSU Valley school technology coordinator 2014-2015. Rob Williams seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Preschool programming for FY 15: Kaiya recently deployed a preschool survey to help optimize the program and make it broadly accessible. A few results stood out: the predominant barrier for families is what a child is going to do after pre-school. Offering childcare, or transportation that would enable a child to access other valley childcare programs after school, would significantly impact participation. The recommendation from the early childhood ed committee was to change the days of our program to Tuesday/Thursday/Friday for 4 year olds and Monday/Wednesday for 3 year olds. This would enable families who are also accessing other private preschool programs to engage with our program as well. Mid day transportation is another compelling issue to address. A rough estimate of those costs has been cited as \$22,500/year. The board discussed how that cost would be offset with additional enrollment and eventual transportation fund reimbursement. Eve Frankel made a motion to approve the costs of a preschool transportation not to exceed \$22,500. Allison Champlin seconded and the motion was approved. Rob Williams abstained.

Waitsfield Municipal Solar Project: Chris Badger framed the opportunity for WES involvement in the project and the potential upside from the net metering return. Kaiya has drafted a letter to the select board that articulates WES interest in

participation with parameters around not taking on any liability as a draft for the boards review and action. Helen Kellogg made a motion to approve the letter with noted adjustments. Rob Williams seconded and the motion was approved. Eve Frankel abstained due to the lack of RFP process undertaken by the town project leaders and the inherent liability therein.

REPORTS

Financial Report: The current anticipated fund balance is \$379. While there is still a significant amount of money that is not yet spent for the year, we may not be in a position to repay the \$3000 debt to the state (portion of the \$9,000 balance owed at the end of 2013, of which \$6,000 is covered in the 2014-15 budget). We would not be penalized for not making this payment, but would need to formulate a new plan for this balance repayment.

Principal's Report: Jan Willey recently worked with the MTSS (Multi-tiered Systems of Support) team in a review of a variety of school data with an eye towards identifying areas for potential systemic change to help students achieve success. Attendance was one of the concerns addressed, and the correlation between students with poor attendance and struggling academic results. A group of 8-9 WES teachers will be working on the WE ROCK program that merges the MTSS and PBIS programs as a defining theme for our school. Next week we'll have artist in residency work with a variety of artists/landscape design/architects working with students to build outside spaces. Next week is the screen free week and the Bridge Street arts fair is the following Saturday, May 17th. We'll have a safe routes to school challenge leading up to the bridge street arts fair and a musical arts parade to the actual fair. Graduation preparations are underway and classroom placements are being discussed.

Superintendent's Report: Brigid has just returned to her work from a medical leave and is getting back up to speed.

Washington West Representative Report: Eve was not able to attend the meeting, and Christine attended in her stead. Christine noted that the policy on self expression garnered a significant amount of discussion.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Rob Williams made a motion to go into executive session on matters of personnel. Eve Frankel seconded and the board went into executive session at 8:31. The board came out of executive session at 8:53.

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 the .6 nurse position, thereby moving Clayton into a full-time position. Christine Sullivan seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:59.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Kellogg
Clerk and Secretary