

**πWaitsfield Elementary School Board of School Directors
Draft Minutes
December 15, 2014
7 pm, Waitsfield School Library**

CALL TO ORDER

Rob Williams called the meeting to order at 7:04pm.

ATTENDANCE

Board members: Ben Loveless, Rob Williams, Helen Kellogg (arrived 7:10 p.m.) , Eve Frankel, Christine Sullivan

WWSU and WES staff: Kaiya, Korb, Brigid Scheffert, Michelle Baker

Community Members: Kathy Haskell, Leslie Badger

DISCUSSION

Audience and written communication: none submitted

Proposed 2015-16 Budget: Michelle Baker reviewed the cost per equalized pupil estimates and state and federal revenue projections for the upcoming year. The budget draft is linked to the meeting warning on the WES website. The common level of appraisal (CLA) is still TBD and should be announced by late December/early January.

Kaiya led a conversation around expense. We began with a review of current and projected class sizes. Eve noted the numbers shared by Rebecca Holcombe that indicates that if all VT schools committed to a minimum class size of 14, the state would save roughly \$75M. Given the steady decline in student population, the board agreed to proceed with a reduction of one teacher for the 2015-16 year. Kaiya then reviewed the preschool programming options around student number caps and preschool partnership funding. Kaiya recommends expanding our preschool capacity to include all potential students. The board agreed. At this stage, we're tracking toward a 2.3% budget increase as a result of the decisions made. Rob Williams will draft a letter to the community on the shape of the budget, for board review.

Waitsfield town solar project MOU: Kaiya circulated a draft of an agreement from the town to the school board. This is a purchasing agreement. Warren Elementary School is reviewing the same document and has asked for this to be reviewed by legal counsel. Kaiya proposed that WES share that legal expense. Christine noted that WES may be looking for a different outcome than Warren and challenged the cost benefit of sharing legal advice on a different type of contract. Kaiya then proposed that we ask the select board review the contract for a) legality and b) risk neutrality for WES. Kaiya also recommends that a WES board member works closely with Sal Spinosa of the Waitsfield selectboard to discuss the contract. Rob Williams agreed to serve as the liaison with Sal and Chris Badger.

WES/FES Food Service Report: We're seeing flat to declining participation in the lunch program. Given increased staff benefit expenses, these are driving up the costs per meal. What was projected to be \$3.62/meal price is now at \$3.85/meal for

actual costs. There is a differential between our meal costs and federal government reimbursement, requiring a general fund subsidy for both free & reduced and full price lunches. Brigid spoke to the conundrum, in small schools, of having the burden of cost for the lunch program be born by paying program participants (those not on free/reduced lunch) or subsidization from the general tax base.

Internal Financial Controls: Michelle reviewed a required questionnaire and responses around internal controls.

Approving 2015-16 Tuition: Michelle reviewed the formula for setting tuition and asked for board approval of tuition established through a state formula.

Action; Helen Kellogg made a motion to approve the proposed tuition. Eve Frankel seconded and the motion was unanimously approved \$13,000.

Policy Packet 5 – the board deferred further review until the following meeting.

Educational Legislation and Political Activity Update/Superintendent's

Report: Brigid confirmed the date of January 5th, 2015 at Harwood, for the annual all boards meeting to approve the WWSU budget.

New Board member recruitment: Rob Williams will be moving off the board in March and his 3 year seat will become available. Ben Loveless, who stepped in for a vacant seat, will be running for an elected seat on the board.

MINUTES

Eve Frankel made a motion to approve the Board meeting minutes from November 17, 2014. Ben Loveless seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Washington West Representative Report: none reported.

Principal's Report: Kaiya reported around the multi tiered system of supports. Supplementary reports with the report cards brought greater detail around individualized supports given outside of IEPs (Special Education Individualized Education Plans) . Kaiya and staff are looking at school data (health office visits for example) and gathering insights from that. WE ROCK programming has impacted climate and specific efforts around kindness are underway, led by the 6th grader leadership team. The winter ski/board/snowshoe program will start shortly for students, which makes time and space for professional development for the teacher. Kaiya filed for victims' right for any restitution rights under the State vs Kay Marcelle case.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20. The next meeting is scheduled for January 19^h at WES library at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Kellogg
Secretary and Clerk