

Waitsfield Elementary School
WAITSFIELD BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS Minutes
February 16, 2015, 7:00PM
Waitsfield Elementary School

Board Members Present: Ben Loveless, Eve Frankel, Christine Sullivan, Helen Kellogg
WES & WWSU staff: Kaiya Korb, Brigid Scheffert, Eric Mongeon

CALL TO ORDER

Eve called the meeting to order at 7:12 pm

DISCUSSION

- **Audience and Written communication:** none submitted
- **Technology Integration/Library Curriculum Presentation:** Eric Mongeon opened with the benefit of the merged librarian and technology integrationist role which was also supported by the dismantling of the fixed computer lab. The new model allows for more fluidity and integration of technology in the classroom. Eric's instruction focuses on digital citizenship in the beginning of the school year, and then carries that theme through various applied projects throughout the year. He walked us through what age specific engagement with technology looks like at WES, giving examples of different projects completed this year at each grade cluster. Eve noted how valuable this role is for building the core foundation for learning. Eric noted the level of collaboration between him and the classroom teacher, supporting a collective approach to using technology to meet a larger learning objective, rather than simply doing projects for technologies' sake.
- **Preparation for the Annual School Meeting Presentation:** Kaiya asked for input on the presentation to the town meeting. Eve noted the need to focus on the volume of volunteer hours that extend the impact of the school beyond the budget. We have two new board seats in the election and need to consider the roles in board re-organisation post election.
- **Policy review: packet #5.**
 - F29R Student Self Expression and Distribution of Literature - is being reviewed at the executive committee and will come back to the WES board at a later meeting.
 - G12R Title 1 Comparability: Kaiya noted that this can be confusing in how school and district are referred to as separate entities, but in our case, we are both school and district... Brigid noted that this will be clarified.
 - G13R Animal Dissection: no comments.
 - H1 School Community Relations: noted the reduction of the word "program"
 - H2 Parental Involvement: no comments.
 - H3 Community Use of School Facilities: Kaiya noted that our current policy includes the potential to charge fees for use not connected to education. Kaiya

will bring forth our policy as a reference, asking the Executive Committee to craft a policy that works with our current policy and practices.

- Educational Legislation and Political Activity Update: Brigid is testifying tomorrow and does not expect to see any decisions before town meeting. She is recommending that legislators, who seem very focused on consolidation, consider four tiers of consolidation - starting at the state level. Specifically, we could benefit from consolidated health care management, as would special education and contract negotiation, at the state level. Her suggestion would keep local control for all matters that are currently truly locally controlled and move decision making for other items to the group/size that is best equipped to manage them. For example, teacher contracts might become regionally negotiated, given that fact finding and competition already supports us being homogenous in pay and benefits.

ACTION

Minutes Approval: Christine Sullivan made a motion to approve the minutes from January 19, 2015. Ben Loveless seconded and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Board Warrant Approval: Helen Kellogg made a motion to approve the board warrant in the amount of \$33,027.07. Christine Sullivan seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

REPORTS

Principal's report: Kaiya spoke of the school action plan which includes foci on literacy, math and climate. The whole staff took that half day afternoon of Feb 4th to review the action plan. They reviewed MTSS and the trends we're seeing for student support needs, as well as PBIS and the climate surveys. Finally, they looked at SNAP (health office data), attendance data, and office referral data trends, in all cases looking for patterns and learnings. All of it supports future planning together. There is a partnership being explored with Tarrant Foundation and our 5/6th grade units to support the professional growth of how we use our technology devices. We are in the active application process and hope to be accepted. We are also exploring a 1:1 device plan for 5/6th grades in future years. Finally, the school is preparing for the SBAC by training staff and preparing the devices. This Wednesday, 4th graders will be participating in NAEP. Also this Wednesday will be the Winterfest, a celebration of the achievements through our monthlong focus on responsibility. The artist residency will be happening the second week of March with Troy Wunderle. The 5/6th grade play, Cinderella, will be on April 10-11 at Valley Players. Parent conferences will happen in late March. Recently, Norm Etkind of the VSBA/VSA came upon request to assess our facility's efficiency. Our usage in both electricity and fuel oil is declining steadily year after year since the retrofits and efficiency improvements. We are starting to see credits (\$900 thus far) from the town installed solar panels.

Washington West Representative's report: already noted during the policy conversation and Brigid's remarks.

Superintendent's Report: The WWSU is going after a grant to hire a consultant to support exploration of consolidation options.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:11pm. The following meeting will be on March 16, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Kellogg

Secretary & Clerk