

Waitsfield Elementary School
WAITSFIELD BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
DRAFT Minutes
Aug 20, 2015 4:30 PM
Waitsfield Elementary School

ATTENDEES

Board Members Present: Eve Frankel, Helen Kellogg, Jonathon Goldhammer, Barclay Rapoport, Christine Sullivan
WES and WWSU Members: Kaiya Korb, Brigid Scheffert Nease
Community Members: Nancy Turner, Deri Meier

CALL TO ORDER

Eve Frankel called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

DISCUSSION

Board Member training: Kaiya highlighted the Essential Work of School Boards resource, and reviewed board roles & responsibilities, public complaints processes, and role in hiring.

Identifying Priorities for 2015-16 School Board Work:

Topic	Status	Known dates/work for 2015-16	Notes
Act 46 (consolidation)	Gathering in the fall, 2 members from every board to join exec. committee for meetings to map out the work to answer question "Does WWSU pursue vote of accelerated merger; why or why not?"	Sept 8, 6 p.m. All WWSU Boards mtg, Harwood auditorium w/ VSBA and AOE Financial Accountant manager, open to the community. Thereafter, likely to be bi-monthly meetings to further this work.	By 2019, we need to merge unless the law is appealed. Vote for accelerated merger needs to occur by July 2016 (high incentives, no consequences embedded in legislation). First to the party are the biggest winners. ** lots of messaging to do connected to this work.

<p>Act 77 (Personalization, Flexible Pathways)</p>	<p>PLPs are being rolled out for all 7th-12 grade students in WWSU schools this year; our school is working with students to support reflection processes, coordinated plp goal setting practice and continued exploration of student choice.</p>	<p>Ongoing through the school; communication out re: expectations will connect with broad communication work.</p>	<p>See also action steps in the WWSU Action plan.</p>
<p>Vermont Education Quality Standards (Proficiency-based graduation expectations)</p>	<p>All content areas are in the process of transitioning to proficiency based expectations. Students in 8th grade now will graduate based on proficiency expectations.</p>	<p>Ongoing through the school; communication out re: expectations will connect with broad communication work.</p>	<p>See also action steps in the WWSU action plan.</p>
<p>Contract Negotiations</p>	<p>Teacher contract still in process.</p>	<p>Start up again after Labor Day. TBD regarding timeline that will follow.</p>	
<p>Community Engagement Great Schools Partnership</p>	<p>Group, including community members began meeting in late April of last year and has gathered 2x since then.</p>	<p>Next group meeting Sept. 3</p>	<p>This work is still evolving, but is focused on engaging the broad community with the schools, specifically around some of the areas of change.</p>

DRAFT WORK PLAN

The following initial components of a work plan were established, recognizing that the vision that grounds all of the work is most important for shaping that work and our ongoing connection with/valuing of our school. The board agreed to work further on this plan at the next meeting and invite representation from the Great Schools Partnership Community Engagement group to join.

Priority Area	Action Step	Resources/ information needed	Timeline	Success Measure
Vision of Education	<p>1. Craft the vision <i>(Here's where we're going and here are some of the things that we are doing to get there.)</i></p> <p>2. Message/ share the vision</p>	Work in collaboration with the Great Schools Partnership committee that is collaborating on engaging the community in visioning for the school.		

The board recessed for a dinner break at 6:24; they reconvened at 6:46 pm.

Audience and written communication – none submitted.

Letter to the Community Eve drafted a letter at the end of last school year; she will share that draft with the board prior to the next meeting so that it can be discussed and finalized at the September meeting.

Consideration of Annual School Meeting options A town meeting working group was set up after the last meeting to explore ways to increase participation. Nancy Turner was a committee member and came to speak about the four initial recommendations. About 15% of registered voters attend the town meeting. A survey was taken to gather insights and 151 surveys came back. Key recommendations included:

- 1) Move the town meeting from the morning to the afternoon/evening. (4-9pm) This is to enable working people to attend.
- 2) Separate town meeting from school meeting.
- 3) Have the budget vote at a reliable time – so you could show up for just that. (6:30 recommended)
- 4) Hold a meeting in the fall to vote on how to move forward with the budget vote – Australian ballot being considered.

The town select board is considering the first three and wants more information for the 4th.

Board members had concerns regarding moving the annual school meeting and the town meeting to separate days. If the goal is to increase attendance, there was a concern that such a move would ultimately decrease attendance at the annual school meeting, where a significant amount of the costs that impact taxes are approved through the school budget. Kaiya will represent the school board at the next discussion of this topic by the Selectboard.

Approval of June 8th minutes: Barclay Rappeport made a motion to approve the minutes from June 8, 2015. Jonathon Goldhammer seconded and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Approval of the Board orders: Helen Kellogg made a motion to approve board orders in the amount of \$25,508.40 and \$43,578.04. Barclay Rappeport seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

REPORTS

Principal's Report: Proficiency based learning and Personalized Learning Plans will be foci for the WWSU for the year. Tom Young and Jeremy Hill, along with Kaiya, are participating in a supervisory union wide leadership team that is shepherding this work, which is detailed in the WWSU action plan, forward. Kaiya noted that PBIS (Positive Behavior Supports) is used at Waitsfield School to inform our vision for what we expect and how we are together. Several staff are working with the Tarrant Collaborative to enhance learning using technology. The chromebooks will be valuable tool in this process. 5th and 6th graders will be going to Hosmer at the beginning of the year to work on teamwork as a basis for learning. The student support services team is leading We Rock celebrations along with how we provide support services. We will institute shared reads, in which multiage groups read together, as part of our PBIS plan. We will also be recognizing and rewarding We Rock behaviors. The preschool room has been beautifully transformed. The security doors are in place to enable swift lock down. In the next few days, the landscape will receive two new stone benches and other tending. The Mad River Path project is still working through Act 250 studies of wetlands. Finally, the first day of school includes an assembly but not an extensive one, in favor of more energy focused on the classroom. The staff is collaborating in the

gearing up for school and there is positive energy throughout.

Washington West Representative Report: No report given. The meeting will follow this board meeting.

Superintendent's Report: Brigid opened the conversation up to questions. Jonathon asked whether the Act 46 approach would yield a larger board and Brigid confirmed.

ADJOURNMENT

Eve Frankel adjourned the meeting at 7:35 pm. The next meeting will be Thursday September 21st at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Kellogg
Clerk and Secretary