

Waitsfield Elementary Board of School Directors

Draft Meeting Minutes April 11, 2016

Waitsfield Elementary School Library

Attendees: Eve Frankel, Jeremy Gulley, Jonathan Goldhammer, Christine Sullivan, Barclay Rappeport, Kaiya Korb

Eve Frankel called the meeting to order at 6:30pm

Additions and Edits to Agenda –none

Discussion

Audience and Written Communication – none

Educational Legislation & Political Activity Update Discussion at the state level continues regarding how to best determine the yield, which was influenced by the districts using their fund balances to cover costs in this budget cycle, resulting in the apparent budget increase being less than actual increase of spending.. All schools are being asked to report their fund balances that were used for next year's budget cycle so that data can be incorporated into yield calculation. Kaiya noted that in absence of new spending caps, we revert back to Act 68 spending caps, under which WES would not have hit the spending cap this budget cycle and we do not anticipate an issue for future budgets.

There are also various legislation dialogues regarding special education, school choice, universal pre-school. Kaiya noted that all of these could be of significant impact but are not necessarily in the forefront at this point.

F-32 Prevention of Bullying, Harassment & Hazing updated policy, first reading

WES currently has policies in place regarding bullying, harassment and hazing. At the suggestion of the Agency of Education and VT School Board Association, we are combining them into one policy, which would replace the three former policies. Our current policies cite laws that are no longer applicable or current.

After a reading of the proposed policy, discussion ensued:

Paragraph four – definition of 'the board' is unclear. Equity coordinator at each school is the person who is accountable for the training and implementation – at each school the principal takes this role. The procedures that are referenced should be included as an appendix (page 1, #1 in implementation.) Kaiya noted that there is reference to a student conduct form as well, which does not match current WES practices. Information should be included about where to obtain a student conduct form if it remains in the policy. Currently if there are any potential hazing, harassment or bullying situations, the reporting person is asked to put it in writing or sit with Kaiya for documentation.

Kaiya will bring the revised version and answers to questions raised at the next meeting.

Action

Approve Board Orders – Jonathan Goldhammer made a motion to approve Board Order 1140 \$54919.03. Eve Frankel seconded. Unanimous approval.

Approve March 16, 2016 Meeting Minutes – Christine moved to approve, Jeremy seconded. Unanimous acceptance.

Review & Accept FY15 Financial audit – Kaiya did note that the audit was delayed this year. The WWSU Executive Committee has recommended use of a new auditor going forward for a variety of reasons, including this delayed response. The audit does match what we received as a preliminary financial closing statement from Michelle Baker in October of 2015. There were no significant findings. Jonathan moved to accept the FY 15 Financial Audit, Barclay seconded. Unanimous acceptance.

Special category designation of funds received – This action would designate limited uses for the money received for restitution for the education fund embezzlement issue. \$7687.57 has been received; It is in a special fund at this point. The board has been asked to designate a purpose. Kaiya's recommendation is to use the funds for the original purpose, which was to help fund technology to support the learning of the students at WES. Even if WES were combined, those funds would be still only for WES for this purpose. Kaiya noted that we are in need of VEX Robotics for new Science program. Kaiya's proposal is to use a portion of the funds to purchase the VEX Robotics. That would also leave some funds for the iPad cart that was reduced from the budget. The technology committee is meeting regarding the iPad cart. Eve made a motion to designate the funds in the Waitsfield Education Fund Restitution Special Fund for the purposes of supporting the use of technology to further education of WES students. Jeremy seconded. Unanimous acceptance.

Establish date for special board meeting to Review and Approve Warning for June 7th Accelerated Merger Vote which includes the Public Informational Hearing Date (after April 19, before May 8) – public informational hearing tentatively set for May 31, 2016.

Our regular board meeting will not fall into the time parameters needed for the warning. Suggestion was made for a morning meeting. Meeting was set for 7:40am on May 4th at WES Library.

The public informational hearing is set for May 31st, 2016 at 6:30pm.

Reports

Principal's Report –

- This is the last week of the Everybody Wins reading program. We have approximately 20 volunteers who come to read with the kids each week. Kaiya noted recognition and appreciation for these volunteers. There has been a wait list this year for kids to be part of the program. Laura Brines does a spectacular job coordinating this program.
- The Artist Residency is focused on pottery this year. A number of local potters and businesses are supporting special workshops this week. Students will also be going to Mud Studios to work on the wheels there. Nora McDonough and Leigh Stockton have pulled together a great effort. Bowls will come out for the Spring Concert on May 19th for a post-concert ice cream social.
- Preschool screening happened in the past month. We are anticipating 7 preschool students in the 3 year old program and either 19 or 20 in the four year old program (capacity.) If any new families entered Waitsfield, then we would have to support those 4 year olds to other programs. Kaiya will put out a notice that we have space for non-resident 3 year olds.
- Class placement process is beginning. The goal is to create heterogeneous groups where every child has a buddy in the class. We are at 22 in 1st grade math at the moment. The 6th grade math class will also be large next year. Dan Greenleaf will be looping to 6th grade math to continue with the students from the current 5th grade.
- The Valley-wide staff meetings will conclude this week. There is feedback that Waterbury schools would like to also attend these meetings.
- Bridge Street Arts Fair will happen on May 21st.

- The administrative team has made the decision that next year we will not be working with the Tarrant Group. The interruption to the flow for staff has been not as flexible as needed for our small school. Tarrant will continue with the Crossett Brook staff.

Washington West Representative report –

The most recent Executive WWSU meeting was board reorganization and public forum. Christine responded to the concerns raised at the community forum public input to the articles of organization around act 46. She made note that on the Act 46 tab on the WWSU website, there is a piece from the AOE regarding getting started and stating the purpose of the articles. The articles are intentionally created to be to be broad and open. The Article of Agreement come from VT statutes and there must be 13 articles covered. WWSU ended up with 16 articles; addressing choice, fallback for MSUD and school closure, were the added articles. All of the articles, appendices, etc. are at the AOE currently. The most up to date versions of all articles can be found on the WWSU website.

Act 46 Study Group Report

Eve presented a draft letter to the community urging a vote yes on June 7th. Discussion ensued to represent more of the fiscal and educational aspects of the merger in the letter. We would like to publish the letter 2-3 weeks prior to the vote/early May.

Superintendent's Report

There was no Superintendent's Report this evening.

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 – moved by Eve Frankel.

Respectfully submitted by Barclay Rappeport