

**HUUSD Board Meeting
14 June 2017
Harwood Library
6:00 PM**

Amended & Approved Minutes

Attendance

Board: Christine Sullivan, Chair; Rosemarie White, Maureen McCracken, Alexandra Thomsen, Peter Langella, Jim Casey, Caitlin Hollister, Garrett MacCurtain, Rob Williams, Sam Jackson

Administration: Brigid Nease, Superintendent; Michelle Baker, WWSU Director of Finance and Operations; Sheila Soule, WWSU Director of Curriculum; Donarae Dawson, WWSU Director of Student Support Services; Ray Daigle, WWSU Director of Maintenance and Operations; Lisa Atwood, Harwood Union Co-Principal; Denise Goodnow, TBPS Principal

Public: Chris Keating, Valley Reporter; Tommy Gardner, Waterbury Record; Gary Washburn, Moretown; Lisa Loomis, Valley Reporter; Peter Kulis, Waterbury; Sally Kulis, Waterbury; Adam Greshin, Warren; David Goodman, Harwood Board Chair; Lara Seaberg, minute taker; MRV-TV camera operator

Call to Order: Chair Christine Sullivan called the meeting to order at 6:06 PM.

Additions/ Deletions to Agenda: None

Public Comment: Adam Greshin presented the Board with an update on the House Education Committee and its work. Mr. Greshin began by sharing with the Board who was on the Education Committee with himself. He then informed the Board which issues the Education Committee has been working on. A brief Q and A session followed.

Lisa Loomis of the Valley Reporter read a statement of concerns about communication between the press and the Superintendent. The concern was that Brigid Nease says she is the official spokesperson for the school district and that she did not respond to the press in a timely manner. There was Board discussion as to whether discussion about the topic and Brigid Nease's response should be on a future agenda or during the current meeting. **Action Item:** Maureen McCracken moved to allow Brigid Nease to respond during the meeting. Jim Casey seconded and the motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

Superintendent Nease gave her response and informed the Board and public that by policy she is the sole spokesperson and that there are 4 communication action levels that she uses. The first is "Emergency" and she responds immediately, the second is "Urgent" and she responds as soon as possible, usually in 1 to 2 hours. The third level is "Timely" and/or "Important" where she responds in a short period of time and she usually chooses to put it in writing. The last level is for a story. Brigid asserted that the Central Office works with the press and that there is no lack of responsiveness.

Peter Kulis read a statement of concerns regarding the implementation of Proficiency Based Grading at Harwood Union.

Gary Washburn shared concerns about grouping all school support staff and administrative assistants in the same "box" regardless of years of work and experience.

David Goodman of the Harwood board shared with the Board that the Harwood board has always been a small version of the HUUSD board and explained how they work for the good of Harwood Union even when there are disagreements between members. He reminded the HUUSD board members that the Harwood board voted unanimously for the merger of the SU into one district and that the community voted for it as well and that they should not let the community and students down. He informed the Board they have a great opportunity with the tax incentives and should not delay in getting as much done as possible, as long as the incentives are in place.

Board Reflections: The Board discussed if they should make audio recordings of meetings when the TV camera is not present. The Board voted unanimously by a show of hands in favor of having a tape recorder present at meetings in case the camera is not there. Brigid Nease shared that the logistics of how the recordings will be disseminated still need to be worked out.

Approval of minutes: Caitlin Hollister moved to approve the minutes of the 24 May 2017 meeting as written. Jim Casey seconded and the motion passed. Rob Williams abstained.

Garett MacCurtain brought up the 5 page document from the absent Board members and questioned how it should be discussed and responded to.

Action Item: Rosemarie White made a motion to table the discussion and response and put it on a future agenda. Maureen McCracken seconded and the motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

Action Item: Christine Sullivan moved to only acknowledge receipt of the document. Jim Casey seconded and the motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

Reports

Communications work Group: Rob Williams shared with the Board that the work group did not meet but that it will pen a statement to the Board for comment and discussion at the 28 June meeting. It will then be sent to the press. He informed the Board that there is a positive, forward thinking mentality to the group and that they are working on a communications policy about communicating with the press. They are looking at how communication flows to the community.

Negotiations Work Group: Christine Sullivan informed the Board that the work group met with teachers and will trade proposals with them on 24 August 2107. There will be meetings on 31 August, 7 September, 21 September, 5 October and 19 October. This timeline allows for ratification before the deadline for choosing new health insurance plans. She also informed the Board that a final contract has been settled with the support staff and it will be ratified at the 28 June meeting.

Superintendent and Director of Finance:

Tax Anticipation Note: Concerning the Tax Anticipation note for FY 2018 Michelle Baker informed the Board that People's United Bank and Community Bank submitted bids of credit and that based on her evaluation she recommends that the Board approve the People's United bank bid.

Action Item: Rosemarie White moved to accept the People's United Bank bid for a Tax Anticipation Note at a 1.65% annual rate in the amount of \$3,660,000 for an annual interest cost of \$59,719. Alexandra Thomsen seconded and the motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

Fuel Bids: Michelle Baker shared with the Board that the estimated total usage of heating fuel for all the schools for SY 2017-2018 is 74,000 gallons. Three heating fuel vendors submitted bids. They were Suburban Propane at \$156,510, Gillespie at \$153,550 and SB Collins at \$133,511. Michelle Baker recommends that the board approve purchase of 74,000 gallons of heating fuel oil from SB Collins.

Action Item: Rosemarie White made a motion to accept the SB Collins heating fuel bid at \$1.939/gallon for schools with no bulk delivery and \$1.749/gallon for schools who can accept the 7,5000 gallon bulk delivery (CBMS, TBPS, HUHS) for prepayment on 14 September 2017 in the total amount of \$133,511.00. Rob Williams seconded and the motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

Lease Agreement with Waitsfield Telecom: Ray Daigle shared with the Board that the telephone systems at the 4 valley elementary schools need updating and are not e-911 compliant. He and building administrators evaluated multiple options for replacing the systems and decided that the best option was to enter into a 60 month lease agreement with Waitsfield Champlain Valley Telecom for equipment and service for all 4 valley elementary schools and Central Office. With the lease, the cost of telephone and internet services decreases from the present level and there is a new cost for the equipment lease. The current annual cost for telephone and internet services at the valley schools and Central Office is \$34,000. The service and equipment lease from WCVT is \$41,670 annually, an annual increase of \$7,670, for new equipment, 1 GBPS internet speed in all locations and e-911 compliance. WCVT will be responsible for all maintenance, repair and replacement of all equipment during the lease term.

Action Item: Rosemarie White moved to accept the 60 month lease agreement with WCVT for equipment and service at a monthly rate of \$3,472.46, authorizing Michelle Baker to sign the WTCV Hosted IP Phone Service Agreement. Maureen McCracken seconded and the motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

Lease Agreement with SPC for Printer and Copiers: Michelle Baker informed the Board that after researching bulk purchase/lease and service contracts for all schools and Central Office, administration chose to utilize the services of Specializing Purchasing Consultants (SPC) to assist in the development and issuance of a copier bid for new copiers in all schools to be installed in July 2017. Michelle Baker recommends a lease agreement with Office Services of Vermont as the vendor and service provider for 5,675,798 copies per year.

Action item: Rosemarie White made a motion to enter into a lease/purchase agreement with an annual payment of \$ 52,939.21 for 5 years for printer and copiers from M.S.T. Government Leasing, LLC with an aggregate purchasing price not exceeding \$ 264,696.05 per their resolution. Jim Casey seconded and the motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

Action Items

Agenda Planning for off site Retreat: Caitlin Hollister shared with the Board that the retreat is 13 September 2017 at the Mad River Barn and that food options are being considered. There was discussion as to what the agenda should contain and what the Board members would like to focus on at the retreat. There was also discussion concerning where things are going with the Board, how things should be done on the Board and how the 5 page document should be addressed. Garrett MacCurtain and Jim Casey would like to hash it out and get back to good work being done by the Board.

Action Item: Caitlin Hollister moved to hold a vote of confidence in the Superintendent and Board leadership at the meeting. Jim Casey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously with no abstentions. Peter Langella moved to add an amendment to the motion for a vote of confidence in the district administration. Sam Jackson seconded the amendment and the motion passed unanimously with no abstentions. The vote of confidence in the Superintendent and Board leadership and district administration passed unanimously with Christine Sullivan abstaining.

Appoint Truant Officers: Rob Williams made a motion to appoint the current truant officers as the new district truant officers. Alexandra Thomsen seconded and the motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

Move for Adoption of Policies in the Bucket: Rosemarie White made a motion to warn the policies in the bucket for final adoption at the 28 June 2017 meeting. Jim Casey seconded and the motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

Discussion Items

In response to Peter Kulis's concerns about Proficiency Based Grading and use of Power Law, Peter Langella clarified that CVU has used Power Law in the past. The Board asked Sheila Soule to write a report to the Board addressing Mr. Kulis' concerns. A discussion about Proficiency Based Grading followed.

No Executive Session was needed.

Adjournment: On a motion made by Rosemarie White and seconded by Rob Williams the Board voted to adjourn at 8:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Lara Seaberg