

**HUUSD Board Meeting
28 June 2017
Harwood Library
6:20 PM**

Approved Minutes

Attendance

HUUSD Board: Christine Sullivan, Chair; Rosemarie White, Jim Casey, Alycia Biondo, Caitlin Hollister, Peter Langella, Alexandra Thomsen, Maureen McCracken

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 Building Operations; Lisa Atwood, HU Principal; Beth Peterson, Warren School Principal; Duane Pierson, Moretown Elementary Principal; Jean Berthiaume, Fayston Elementary Principal; Kaiya Korb, Waitsfield Elementary Principal

Staff: Rob MacLeod, HU faculty; Emily Smith, HU faculty; Marcus Grace, HU faculty, Gretchen Hernandez, HU faculty; Jill Schwenderman, HU staff; Sarah Ibson, HU faculty

Public: Laura Caffry, HU Board; Walker Caffry, student/Waitsfield; Nicole Hynes, Waterbury Center; Melissa McKay, Waterbury Center; Amanda Nelson, Waterbury Center; Mary Woodruff, Waterbury; Judy Woodruff, Waterbury; Jill Skovron, Waterbury; Sherrie James, Waterbury Center; John Haase, Duxbury; Tamataha Thomas-Haase, Duxbury; Cathi Levey, Fayston; Jessica Deane, Waterbury Center; Sally Kulis, Waterbury; Peter Kulis, Waterbury; Marino Bartolomei; Waterbury Center; Josh Reid, Waterbury; Deb Hunter, HU Board; David Goodman, HU Board; Stephen Odefey, Waterbury; Ben Smith, Duxbury; Michelle Abajian, Waterbury; Kate O'Neill, Moretown; Melinda Schmalz, Moretown; Tommy Gardner, Waterbury Record; Paul Maravetz, Waterbury Center; Ellen Dorsey, Waterbury Center; Patty McKibbon, Waterbury; Leslie Proteau, Duxbury; Anne Latulippe, Duxbury; Mary Simmons, Waitsfield; Beth McGeorge, Waitsfield; Jared Cadwell, Fayston; Marni Martens, Waterbury Center; Chris Parsons, Waterbury Center; Tiffini Bellows, Waterbury; Susan Cummiskey, Warren; Bob Cummiskey, Warren; Cindy Bond, Warren; Marty wells, Duxbury; Tracy Wells, Duxbury; Eve Frankel, Waitsfield; Chris North, Waterbury; Tim Schmalz, Moretown; Chris Keating, Valley Reporter; Lara Seaberg, minute taker; MRV-TV camera operator

Call to Order: Christine Sullivan called the meeting to order at 6:20 PM.

Additions/deletions to agenda: None

Public Comment: Harwood Union board chairman, David Goodman, read an Op-ed letter signed by the Harwood Union Middle/High School Board of Directors entitled Unifying the Unified School Board.

Harwood faculty member Rob MacLeod shared his thoughts on Harwood Union, the resignation of Amy Rex and the HUUSD Board.

Approve minutes: Caitlin Hollister requested that “Superintendent” be added to her original motion regarding the board vote of confidence. Jim Casey requested that the word “sole” be replaced with “official” in the Public Comment section of the minutes. Alexandra Thomsen moved to approve the minutes of the 14 June 2017 meeting with the above corrections. Rosemarie White seconded and the motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

Reports

Superintendent’s Report: Superintendent Nease shared with the Board that the Intra-District Choice policy report that they were provided is a fluid document and that the numbers are predictions and could change. She informed the Board that the actual number of students will be available by 1 September 2017. Brigid Nease also shared the plan for moving forward and supporting the faculty, staff, and students after the resignation of Amy Rex. The administration is looking at moving two teachers who are on the Leadership Team and are licensed to do administrative work. The two teachers are Brian Moody and Sam Krotinger. Lisa Atwood will be the Principal and Mr. Krotinger and Mr. Moody will be assistant principals. Superintendent Nease informed the Board that their roles and responsibilities are still being worked out.

Finance: Michelle Baker informed the Board that on 1 July 2017 the HUUSD will receive its first funding. She shared that she is working on how to handle board warrants as there will no longer be board warrants at the local board level. She also informed the Board that vendor payment checks will now be issued weekly rather than biweekly.

Action Items

Warren Renovation, Change Order Approval: Rosemarie White informed the Board that there is a Warren Building Committee which includes the following board members and administration, Rosemarie White, Alycia Biondo, Alexandra Thomsen, Ray Daigle, Michelle Baker, and Beth Peterson. Rosemarie White recommended that the Board give the Committee authorization to approve change orders.

Action Item: Peter Langella moved to give the Committee authority to approve change orders up to a cumulative amount of \$167,958 after 1 July; this is the amount of the contingency reserve for the project. Alexandra Thomsen seconded and the motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

Ratify Support Staff Master Agreement: Action item: Peter Langella moved to ratify the Support Staff Master Agreement and Alexandra Thomsen seconded. The motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

Non-Unionized, Non-Licensed Employee Leave and Benefits: Action item: Maureen McCracken made a motion to approve the Non-unionized, Non-licensed Employee Leave and

Benefits agreement. Caitlin Hollister seconded and the motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

Lease Agreement(s) for Technology Equipment: Action item: Rosemarie White moved to approve the Lease Agreement(s) for Technology Equipment and Alycia Biondo seconded. The motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

Action item: Alexandra Thomsen moved to approve Project Lead the Way and Jim Casey seconded. The motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

Propane Bid: Action item: Rosemarie White moved to accept a bid for propane from Gillespie Fuels and Propane for \$1.19/gallon for anticipated total cost of \$14,875. Maureen McCracken seconded and the motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

Action item: Alexandra Thomsen made a motion to move the Pre-K report after Sheila Soule's answers to the Proficiency Based Learning questions. Alycia Biondo seconded and the motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

Copy Paper bid: Action item: Rosemarie White moved to accept the bid of an annual estimated cost of \$17,237.58 from WB Mason for copy paper for FY 2018. Alycia Biondo seconded and the motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

IDEA B: Action Item: Caitlin Hollister moved to amend the motion wording to "each town" from "each district". Alexandra Thomsen seconded and the motion passed unanimously with no abstentions. **Action item:** Alexandra Thomsen made a motion to approve, on behalf of the Harwood Unified Union School District Board with representatives from each town, the Local Education Agency Plan for the Individuals with Disabilities Improvement Act (IDEIA), Part B, for the fiscal year 2018 and to authorize the HUUSD Board Chair to sign. Peter Langella seconded and the motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

Moretown School Storm Water Project: Duane Pierson informed the Board about the storm water flooding problem in the Moretown Elementary parking lot which is shared with the Moretown Town Offices building. He informed the Board that there is a grant from the VT Department of Environmental Conservation which can pay for the project. The Town of Moretown has applied for the grant. He requested that the Board approve support of the agreement by making a matching fund \$44,719 out of the FY 2019 budget.

Action item: Rosemarie White moved to approve supporting the commitment of \$44,719 out of the FY 2019 budget, contingent on the Town of Moretown receiving the VT DEC grant monies funding the storm water mitigation project and approving the attached letter of support. Alycia Biondo seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Action item: Alexandra Thomsen moved to add an amendment that the approval be contingent on the Moretown Select Board's commitment of their share of the supporting monies. Alycia Biondo seconded and the motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

Adoption of Policies: Peter Langella moved to make an amendment to remove Policy C8-L-HU from the bucket of policies to be adopted and vote on it separately. Alycia Biondo seconded and the motion. The motion did not pass by a weighted vote of 52.5 in opposition and 5.6 in favor.

Action item: Maureen McCracken made a motion to approve all the policies in the bucket which include policies C6-R, C8-L-HU, D2-R, D6-R, D7-R, D8-R, D11-R, D12-R, D13-R, E7-R, E7-R-P, E8-R, and H1-L. Rosemarie White seconded and the motion passed by a weighted vote of 52.5 in favor of the motion and 5.6 in opposition.

Discussion Items

Sheila Soule's answers to PBL questions: Sheila Soule read her responses to Peter Koulis's questions about Proficiency Based Learning grading. Christine Sullivan asked Mr. Koulis if his questions had been answered. Mr. Koulis answered that they had not and he said he would like more evidence. He would also like more dialogue. Discussion and public comment followed. Brigid Nease informed the public to send her emails if they feel they have problems with the grading system.

Pre-K Implementation FY2019: Kaiya Korb presented the Pre-K Implementation plan for FY 2019 to the Board. **Action item:** Peter Langella moved to accept the report and the Administration's recommendation for Pre-K beginning in FY 2019. Caitlin Hollister seconded and the motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

Check in on Agenda for Board Retreat: Caitlin Hollister updated the Board on possible agenda items for the Board retreat. The Board discussed ideas for the retreat.

Projected Fall Schedule: The Board was asked to hold the dates of 30 August, 20 September, 27 September and 29 November for the Fall schedule.

Intra District Choice: This was addressed in the Superintendent's report.

Adjournment: On a motion made by Rosemarie White and seconded by Caitlin Hollister the Board voted to adjourn at 9:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Lara Seaberg