

Washington West Supervisory Union Executive Committee
"OFFICIAL" Meeting Minutes for January 11, 2012
Washington West Central Office

WWEC Members Present: Susan MacLean-Daley (Fayston), Deb Hunter (Harwood), Eve Frankel (Waitsfield, arrived 5:45 p.m.), Rob Rosen (Warren), Dale Smeltzer (Waterbury-Duxbury), and Ben Smith (Waterbury-Duxbury)

Administrators Present: Brigid Scheffert, Michelle Baker

Others: Cathryn Hayes (Fayston Principal)

Ben Smith called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m.

Action Items:

Approve minutes of December 14, 2011: Susan MacLean-Daley moved to approve the minutes of December 14, 2011 as written. Rob Rosen seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Discussion Items

Updates and Other Business – Brigid reminded board members that it was time for the Superintendent's Evaluation again, although the WWEC could chose to go every other year which some SUs do after two consecutive years (as is the case here). There was brief discussion and the consensus was that given there were no questions or anything other than satisfactory responses on the evaluations, it made sense to move to every two years.

ACTION: Rob Rosen moved to carry out the Superintendent Evaluation every other year. Deb Hunter seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Review Meeting Agendas and Topics for Remainder of Year – Brigid noted that things are ahead of schedule in terms of topics that have been covered. Dale noted that the March meeting needs to happen after the annual reorganization meeting. One of the first topics that will be ready in the new board year will be the instructional time data, which has been in the works for a year due to the challenging nature of compiling data between different schools.

Eve Frankel arrived at 5:45 p.m.

Brigid then reviewed some of the major topics for the following meetings. She asked if board members had any other subjects that they want to hear about. Deb suggested that regular updates on Act 153 would be important, and Brigid noted that she will be doing that if there's anything new to report. Ben suggested that it would be good to hear about the info learned from Orange Southwest SU management efficiencies. Dale suggested that reporting needs included in policies should be tracked and put on the calendar as the policies are reviewed. Brigid noted that the job description manual needs to be a priority work for her.

Eve asked about whether it made sense to continue work on the middle school consolidation discussion started earlier. Rob suggested that it should dealt with from the perspective of the underlying problem of declining enrollment. He noted that the following actions by Warren had stemmed their enrollment decline: an early care program investment; increase in low-income housing; marketing of second homes as primary residences; working with realtors and making sure visitors go to the school. There was then discussion about similar actions being taken in the other communities, and at Harwood on a school level. Ben asked which conversations were appropriate for WWEC, and which for local boards or other levels (e.g. statewide). There was further discussion about the pros and cons of various possible tracks to take to attempt to consider the possibilities. Ben suggested that the marketing issue should be on the agenda after reorganization. Susan asked if a single agenda retreat might make sense, on this topic (possible title: *WWSU Educational Delivery in a Climate of Declining Enrollment – Positioning the District*), perhaps jointly with the HU board, at the end of the school year when the legislature has

adjourned. All WWSU board members would be invited. There was consensus that this was a good idea.

Transportation Bids – Michelle reported that they had asked for a lot of options in the bid requests that went out, so it is taking a lot of time to review all the information. She will have the analysis ready for the February meeting. The two companies that bid were First Student, and Student Transportation of VT (Mountain Transit combined with another company).

March Meeting Date – The week of March 26 would be the time when all boards have had their reorganizations. Tuesday March 27 could be a full WWSU reorganization meeting immediately followed by a WWEC meeting. The start time would need to be 6 PM, and it would be held in the Harwood library.

Start of the School Day Start Time Subcommittee – Brigid and WWEC members reported the following results from the question that went out about studying this issue: Fayston and Warren did not support it; Harwood did not have any member willing to serve so did not support; Waitsfield and Waterbury-Duxbury had members in support; Moretown vote was unsure. There was consensus that it did not make sense to proceed with this.

Policy Packet #2 Work Session – There was first discussion about how the policy wording should be structured to best reflect the Districts which had adopted them. Rob Rosen provided an alternative to the way the first paragraph of the policies has been worded, which consisted of a heading above the actual policy developed by Warren principal Andreas Lehner.

ACTION: Dale Smeltzer moved to keep the policy format of the listing of the District names as currently drafted. Susan MacLean-Daley seconded the motion. Rob Rosen moved to amend the motion to change into the paragraph heading of Andreas Lehner's format, and Ben Smith seconded the amendment to allow it to be on the floor for discussion. There was brief discussion, and the vote on the amendment failed 1-4-1, with Rob Rosen voting in favor, and Dale Smeltzer, Deb Hunter, Ben Smith and Susan MacLean-Daley voting in opposition, with Eve Frankel abstaining. The original motion then passed with a 4-1-1 vote, with Dale Smeltzer, Deb Hunter, Ben Smith and Susan MacLean-Daley voting in favor, Rob Rosen voting in opposition, with Eve Frankel abstaining.

Edits: The following policies were reviewed, with edits noted:

C1 Board Meeting Agenda

Change to "at least 2 days before" for agenda distribution

C2 Board Meetings

No changes

Procedures: should reflect actual practice for order of items on the agenda: "The usual business at regular meetings may include but not be limited to the following:" Change "unfinished" to "old" business. Add "Action Items". Change "Visitors" to "Community Input".

C3 Public Participation at Board Meetings

No changes

C4 School Visits by Board Members

Implementation "Individual Board members are encouraged to visit..." "These visits should follow prior consultation with the Principal".

C5 Board Relations with School Personnel

At School Board Meetings: “The Board may request the Superintendent or Principal to invite school personnel to School Board meetings to discuss matters of mutual interest.”

Relations with the Principal: remove

Relations with Other School Staff title: remove “other” from title. “Individual Board members will not communicate directly with staff members on matters of school board business except at the direction of the Board as a whole.”

C6 Board Commitment to Non-Discrimination

No changes in policy

Procedures – No changes

Other Business

Adjournment – Dale Smeltzer moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. Rob Rosen seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Minutes recorded by Dale Smeltzer