

Washington West Supervisory Union Executive Committee  
"APPROVED" Meeting Minutes for Sept 8, 2010  
WWSU Central Office

**WWEC Members Present:** Freddie Graves (Harwood), Scott Mackey (Harwood), Lisa Ransom (Moretown), Elizabeth Cadwell (Waitsfield), Rob Rosen (Warren), and Ben Smith (Waterbury-Duxbury)

**Administrators Present:** Brigid Scheffert, Sheila Rivers, Donarae Cook, Michelle Baker

Ben Smith called the meeting to order at 5:39 p.m.

**1. Action Items:**

- a. **Approve minutes of August 11, 2010** –Freddie Graves moved to approve the minutes of August 11, 2010 as written. Scott Mackey seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

**2. Superintendents Report**

- a. **Harassment policies:** Brigid stated the SU was recently notified by the DOE to be out of compliance in our harassment policies, in particular related to issues of gender identity and the timeline required for investigating complaints. She has taken our existing policy and included the language required by the state, and hopes to have local boards review the policy in October and warn it for approval in November. Local boards are legally obligated to adopt the policy or certain funding sources may be in jeopardy. The new policy will reflect the State's model policy. Scott Mackey raised a question about the school's responsibility for events that occur off school grounds, as reflected in the first paragraph of the policy draft. There was much discussion about this. Brigid clarified that agree or disagree, this language is required as written by the state. No action was taken.
- b. **Negotiating Teams:** Brigid stated that she needed to be authorized by the Executive Committee to set up negotiations teams for the upcoming rounds of negotiations. Freddie Graves moved to authorize the Superintendent to establish negotiation teams for the coming set of negotiations. Elizabeth Cadwell seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Brigid will place this item on the agendas of local boards.
- c. **Model class size policy:** The committee reviewed the State's model class size policy. Class size policies need to be developed and reported to the Commissioner of Education by 1/15/11. These can be developed at the SU level or at the district level. There was general consensus that it should be initiated at the local level. Brigid stated that either way the Supervisory Union Board would have to adopt the local policies prior to reporting them to the Commissioner. Freddie Graves moved that each school district set its own class size policy to be delivered to the Superintendent no later than Dec 31<sup>st</sup> 2010. The motion was seconded by Rob Rosen and passed unanimously.
- d. **Report from Subcommittee on Challenges for Change Targets:** The Subcommittee had been charged with examining the targets provided by the state. It included Rob Rosen, Scott Mackey, Lisa Ransom, and Michelle Baker. They reported their findings as follows:
  - i. Although the methodology was difficult to penetrate, the values assigned to the Supervisory Union appeared to correlate in general with equalized spending per pupil, which the group felt to be relatively fair.
  - ii. The above did not hold true for the values assigned to the individual districts. The group believes a fairer methodology could be used to divide the SU target among the local districts. This would involve two variables: equalized spending per pupil and projected enrollment growth. This methodology would result in significant adjustments in the targets for individual districts. A spreadsheet was provided with examples.
  - iii. The group recommended that if we are going to try to meet targets, all boards should agree to this methodology before the final enrollment counts. This is because the methodology will create "winners and loser" within the district.

Freddie Graves moved to accept the report and that we bring it for discussion to our local boards. The motion was seconded by Rob Rosen. Much discussion ensued about whether the Executive Committee should endorse the targets supplied by the State, as this represented a de facto endorsement of the state's right to dictate local spending decisions. The discussion was wide ranging and touched on Acts 60/68, the virtues of local control, and issues of education funding. Freddie Graves then withdrew her prior motion. Rob Rosen moved that the executive committee accept the methodology developed by the subcommittee and, if the local boards collectively agree to meet the SU spending target, they use the committee's method to allocate the reductions. Freddie Graves seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Brigid was also asked to forward the subcommittee's statement and spreadsheet to local board members. The subcommittee will continue to meet in order to begin developing a statement of principle regarding the Executive Committee's approach to the Challenges for Change target process.

3. **Executive session**— Scott Mackey moved to go into Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations. Freddie Graves seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Executive session began at 7:30pm. Rob Rosen Left at 7:44pm. Executive session ended at 7:55pm.
4. **Additional Work Session Topics** –
  - a. **District Consolidation** –Brigid stated that work with her team of administrators on developing models is ongoing and somewhat difficult. The consolidation process will be further discussed at the next meeting.
5. **Other Business** –

There was no other business.
6. **Adjournment** – Freddie Graves moved for adjournment. It was seconded by Scott Mackey and passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Minutes recorded by Ben Smith