

Washington West Supervisory Union Executive Committee  
"APPROVED AS AMENDED" Meeting Minutes for November 10, 2010  
WWSU Central Office

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

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

**Other Board Members Present:** Mary Gow (Harwood)

Ben Smith called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

**1) Action Items:**

- a) **Approve minutes of October 13, 2010:** Freddie Graves moved to approve the minutes of October 13, 2010 as written. Rob Rosen seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

**2) Discussion Items**

- a) **Policy Review and Edits, Packet #1:** Board members had not come prepared to pass on their board's comments; this was postponed until the December meeting.
- b) **Superintendents Report:** Brigid noted that she provides reports at the local meetings and did not provide a full report here. She did share information on cross-training they have done within Central Office, using a year-at-a-glance tool.
- c) **WWSU Budget:** Michelle presented *Budget Draft #2, November 2010*, provided in a handout. Since Draft #1, the health insurance increase has dropped from 5% to 3%; they decided to include Alert Now into the budget as the best way to provide the program over the long-term; the lease renewal has been worked out with a one year renewal option and essentially no increase; and there is a proposal for WWSU Technology Staff to be discussed. The draft would result in a budget increase of \$20,122 (2.1%) and an increase in assessments of 4.9% due to a smaller fund balance. Michelle then reviewed the estimated impact on each school district that would result based on the SU one year pupil ADM assessment.

Scott Mackey asked about the Challenges for Change target and Brigid explained the discussion at the previous meeting. Dale Smeltzer expressed concern about a budget increase at this time and wondered whether there could be local offsets to partially neutralize this. Brigid responded that sometimes spending more can result in future savings by coordinating services and purchasing to build capacity. Scott agreed that it is a perception issue. There was discussion about how best to present an increase to the local boards and to the community at large. Brigid will prepare information that compares WWSU with other SU's for all costs, potential future savings, and spending on Technology in all the school districts.

- d) **WWSU All Boards Meeting – Agenda Planning:** Brigid reminded board members that an all-Boards meeting was planned for December 6, and the start time needed to be determined. The discussion topics would be Challenges for Change targets, and Consolidation explorations under Act 153. She reported that she had recently learned that in order to get the funds from the State to study the issues around consolidation and governance, we needed to follow the statute around establishing a study committee. This statute says that a study committee must be established by the vote of at least two boards. Three boards who have met since she learned of this need have already voted to establish this committee: Fayston, Harwood and Waterbury-Duxbury. Brigid suggested that it would be appropriate for WWEC to oversee the process and determine the committee composition. There was discussion around the study committee, and then the planning needed for the meeting on December 6.

**Finally it was agreed that this meeting should be cancelled and that a meeting for the WWSU Board should be scheduled on Monday, December 13, 6 PM, to review and approve the WWSU Budget.**

- e) **Challenges for Change – Update and Subcommittee Report:** The subcommittee draft of the statement will be ready for the December meeting. Board members shared their current plans about meeting the

targets: Moretown will meet the state's; Harwood will meet it; Warren will be close; Waitsfield is not sure; Fayston will not; Waterbury-Duxbury will not.

- f) **Act 153 – Changes in SU Responsibilities:** Brigid reviewed the Act 153 changes that had been described in her October Board Report.
  - i) **New SU Responsibilities:** A waiver to be able to retain Special Education staff within a local school will be given only if it can be shown that doing so would be cheaper than shifting to an SU system. The SU budget will look very different with these new staffing responsibilities. Dale asked about transportation and whether any changes are needed for these services; Brigid replied that Warren's own buses could still be retained. Dale suggested that a formal commitment from Warren might be a good idea, since the SU now has responsibility for transportation. Brigid suggested that starting the plans for these changes in SU services could be part of the consolidation study committee work with the state grant.
  - ii) **Class-Size Policy:** Brigid reported that the class-size policy wording has been simplified to be clearer; all schools can meet the suggested range from the state with their current staffing.
- g) **District Consolidation/Redesign – Identifying Options to be Explored Further:** Ben reminded board members that the conversation at the last WWSU meeting had indicated comfort within the SU about consolidation of middle school services, but not all grades, and that we should remember this as the options were looked at. He suggested that perhaps the options chosen to be explored further should be the ones that did only that rather than a lot of other consolidation as well. Ben then reviewed the options that had been provided in handouts for the previous meeting. Board members discussed them one by one, including the issues of whether it made sense to consider elementary school changes or stick with just the middle school grades and the value of costing out staying with the status quo as a valuable comparison.

**CONSENSUS: It was agreed that Options 1,2,3 and Status Quo should be explored further; and that Governance will be part of the discussion. The grade levels to be considered will be middle school, but if elementary school needs come up we'll look at them too.**
- 3) **Other Business** – there was none.
- 4) **Adjournment** – Scott Mackey moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. Freddie Graves seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Minutes recorded by Dale Smeltzer