

**Washington West Supervisory Union Executive Committee**  
**"UNOFFICIAL" Meeting Minutes for February 12, 2014**  
**Washington West Central Office**

**WWEC Members Present:** Doug Mosle (Fayston), Deb Hunter (Harwood), Dale Smeltzer (Harwood), Jim Burmester (Moretown), Eve Frankel (Waitsfield), Rob Rosen (Warren), and Ben Smith (Waterbury-Duxbury)  
**WWSU Administrators Present:** Brigid Scheffert, Michelle Baker, Sheila Soule, Donarae Dawson  
**Other Administrators:** Kaiya Korb (Waitsfield Principal)  
**Public:** Rosemarie White

Eve Frankel called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

**1) Action Items:**

- a) **Approve minutes of December 11, 2013:** Ben Smith moved to approve the minutes of December 11, 2013 as written. Rob Rosen seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

**2) Discussion Items**

- a) **Presentation of HUHS and Waitsfield Elementary Foreign Language Program - Middlebury Project:** Kaiya Korb, principal from Waitsfield, shared information about the foreign language program from Middlebury being piloted at the Waitsfield Elementary School this year. Middlebury Interactive Language (MIL) is a partnership between Middlebury College and a private company. Five languages are offered – French, Spanish, Latin, German and Chinese; French is being used at Waitsfield in grades 3-6 for one of the two weekly days of instruction. It is also available to families outside of the school day. Due to budget pressures they will not be purchasing it again next year; they hope that in the future the elementary grade materials will improve and perhaps the cost will go down. Sheila Soule presented some feedback, provided by Amy Rex, about how it is working at Harwood where two faculty members are using it extensively as a supplement to their foreign language classes. There are also students using it to learn a language through independent study, and this is going well although there is a need for teacher interaction. There was discussion and interest in considering how to use this on a WWSU level.
- b) **Review WWSU Financial Report:** Michelle Baker noted the report provided in the packet, showing a current projected fund balance of \$ 2,525.
- c) **WWSU Annual Class Size Report:** Brigid reviewed the class size report which had been provided in the meeting packet.
- d) **Debrief SBE Boundary Meeting (WNSU) – Next Steps:** Brigid reported that she spent a day meeting with the other superintendents involved in this proposed boundary change by the State Board of Education, with the goal of convincing the others that it did not make sense for WWSU to be involved. Dealing with truancy cases and some other services that are county based is yet another issue to consider, and for students in a different county this would be even more expensive for WWSU to provide. Two alternatives are now being considered to bring before the SBE, and WWSU is not a part of either.
- e) **Recent Legislation and Ed Funding:** Brigid reported that the legislation to watch is one that would dissolve SU's into districts based more on high schools; for various reasons many legislators seem to think this is a good idea. There is also a education funding forum scheduled the following evening about Education Funding, organized by the task force headed by Heidi Spear.
- f) **Plan 3/31 WWSU Full Board Meeting:** Brigid reviewed the items that might make sense for this full WWSU Board reorganization meeting, besides the big item on the agenda of a discussion on Middle School Alignment. The middle school administrators have been meeting monthly with Sheila to start work on these issues and needs.

**3) Other Business**

- a) **Weather Days:** Brigid reported that this is becoming a challenging responsibility due to increased parent feedback and complaints about the decisions, and asked for ideas from board members about better communicating this with the public.

- b) **Medical Leave for Brigid:** Brigid reported that she has to have a hip replacement, which has been scheduled for March 18. She is planning with the other administrators at Central Office to cover the needed responsibilities.
- 4) **Adjournment** – Rob Rosen moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:14 p.m. Ben Smith seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

*Minutes recorded by Dale Smeltzer*