

**Washington West Supervisory Union Executive Committee**  
**"UNOFFICIAL" Meeting Minutes for June 12, 2013**  
**Washington West Central Office**

**WWEC Members Present:** Susan MacLean-Daley (Fayston), Deb Hunter (Harwood), Dale Smeltzer (Harwood), Jim Burmester (Moretown), Eve Frankel (Waitsfield), Ben Smith (Waterbury-Duxbury)

**Administrators Present:** Brigid Scheffert, Sheila Soule, Michelle Baker, Donarae Dawson-Pike

**Others:** Doug Mosle (Fayston Board Member)

Eve Frankel called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m.

**1) Action Items:**

**a) Approve minutes:**

- i) Susan MacLean-Daley moved to approve the minutes of May 8, 2013 as written. Ben Smith seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- ii) Ben Smith moved to approve the minutes of May 29, 2013 as written. Susan MacLean-Daley seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

**2) Discussion Items**

- a) Technology** – Brigid Scheffert noted that Craig could not attend, but that a comprehensive written status report was provided in the packet. This issue will be revisited in the fall, giving the status of all schools within the WWSU. Michelle Baker noted that the proposed MOU to allow a shared hiring of a Technology Coordinator between three schools needs approval.

**ACTION:** Ben Smith moved to approve the MOU for a Technology Coordinator in FY14 for Fayston, Moretown, and Waitsfield schools, with costs split as agreed between the three districts. Dale Smeltzer seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

- b) WWSU Assessments to Equalized Pupils** – Michelle provided two handouts: "WWSU Assessment based on ADM vs. Equalized Pupils" and "Equalized Pupil Summary". She then reviewed the handouts to provide information regarding the options around assessing SU costs to the local districts, and comparing the cost to each district for using ADM, and what it would look like if it was switched to a Equalized Pupils basis. Many districts around the state have made this change, since equalized pupils is what is used in state formulas (rather than ADM). Michelle noted that this change would make minimal change in the Equalized Tax Rates. Making this change would require a by-laws change, and Michelle will look into what is involved in this.

**ACTION:** Ben Smith moved to support action to move forward in making a change from basing assessment of WWSU expenses on ADM to basing it on Equalized Pupils for FY15 if possible, and to direct the administration to come to the Sept meeting with a draft change for the by-laws. Susan MacLean-Daley seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

- c) Discussion of End of Year Legislative Session; Review Report, Senate Resolution & Act 153/156: Where Are We?** – Brigid noted that she will be providing a written end of the year report via email. Almost everything that was controversial went to study committee in the legislature. SR7 Resolution is causing the most concern since it felt retaliatory. As for Act 153/157, in terms of Transportation, the state requires either a SU system or a local system, but she recommends staying with our hybrid for now (Warren with their own buses). In terms of Special Education, this went back into a study committee but the date for implementation was not postponed. However it did give the SU Boards the authority to vote to bring over the paraeducators into Central Office or not. The law requires a waiver provision for professionals. Brigid is thinking that for now it does not make sense to make any changes with paraeducators, and to go forward with seeking a waiver for the Special Education teachers. There was discussion, and no action is needed until later.

- d) **Flexible Options: Elementary School Exchange in WWSU; Share Middle School Agreement** – This was intended as a first discussion to consider whether to discuss further. The needs for this kind of choice were discussed, including the needs of the sending and receiving schools. There was discussion of the different kinds of scenarios that could occur, and the challenges that might result, especially for the smaller schools. It was agreed to go back to discuss this with the local boards, and perhaps consider local agreements between two districts (such as Waterbury-Duxbury and Moretown).
- e) **Policy Packet #3** – These were all reviewed at the special meeting, and will be warned for first reading in August and adoption in September meetings.
- f) **Directions for Pre-K to 12 and Upcoming Obstacles** – Brigid brought up some developing issues that she wanted to make WWEC members aware of and to get their feedback. She feels that the SU's biggest problem is not governance or too much local control, but rather the fact that there are two middle schools, each with different grade level configurations. She noted that better clarity is needed about what are local board decisions and what are SU level decisions, in terms of impacts regarding common curriculum and programs across all grades. There was discussion of the issues and examples provided. It was agreed to approve a resolution now. Brigid will report back in September. Working to build a mindset of unity within the SU – for administrators and boards – was suggested as an important step to consider as well.

**ACTION: Deb Hunter moved to approve the following resolution. Ben Smith seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

**Pursuant to Vermont Statute Title 16, Section 261(a), the WWSU Board Executive Committee is highly committed to a rigorous, well-articulated preK-12 curriculum that is fully implemented as stated in the collaborative agreements and decisions of the WWSU Administrative Team and further defined in the WWSU Action Plan. We affirm the authority of the Superintendent and the Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment to ensure a consistent, coherent and high quality education for every student, pre K-12, that is aligned within and across all grades in each and every school.**

- 3) **Other Business** – there was none
- 4) **Adjournment** – Ben Smith moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:54p.m. Deb Hunter seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

*Minutes recorded by Dale Smeltzer*