

Washington West Supervisory Union Board
“UNOFFICIAL” Meeting Minutes for March 31, 2015
Harwood Union High School Library

In Attendance:

WWSU Board Members:

Duxbury Town: Matt Schrag
Fayston: Jill Ellis
Harwood: Dale Smeltzer, Garrett MacCurtain, Rosemarie White
Moretown: Jim Burmester, Kate O'Neill
Waitsfield: Eve Frankel, Christine Sullivan
Warren: Adam Greshin, Mike Ketchel
Waterbury-Duxbury: Alexandra Thomsen
Waterbury Town: Reid McCracken

Administrators: Brigid Scheffert (Superintendent), Sheila Soule (WWSU Director of Curriculum and Assessment), Michelle Baker (WWSU CFO), Donarae Dawson (Director of Student Services)

Call to Order: Brigid Scheffert called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

1) Action Items:

a) Board Reorganization

- i) **Elect a Chair** – Dale Smeltzer moved to nominate Eve Frankel as Chair. There were no other nominations and the motion passed unanimously.
- ii) **Elect a Vice-Chair** – Reid McCracken moved to nominate Garrett MacCurtain as Vice-Chair. There were no other nominations and the motion passed unanimously.
- iii) **Elect a Treasurer** – Mike Ketchel moved to nominate Doug Mosle as Treasurer. There were no other nominations and the motion passed unanimously.
- iv) **Elect an Assistant Treasurer** – Eve Frankel moved to nominate Laura Titus as Assistant Treasurer. There were no other nominations and the motion passed unanimously.
- v) **Elect a Finance Officer** – Dale Smeltzer moved to nominate Rosemarie White as Finance Officer. There were no other nominations and the motion passed unanimously.
- vi) **Elect an Assistant Finance Officer** – Eve Frankel moved to nominate Jill Ellis as Assistant Finance Officer. There were no other nominations and the motion passed unanimously.
- vii) **Elect a Recording Secretary** – Garrett MacCurtain moved to nominate Dale Smeltzer as Recording Secretary. There were no other nominations and the motion passed unanimously.

Eve Frankel then took over the meeting.

- b) **Approve Minutes of January 5, 2015** – Jim Burmester moved to approve the minutes of January 5, 2015 as written. Kate O'Neill seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- c) **Designate Newspaper of Record** – Jill Ellis moved to designate the Times Argus, the Valley Reporter and the Waterbury Record as the Newspapers of Record. Garrett MacCurtain seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

2) Discussion Items

- a) **Legislative Update:** Adam Greshin gave a brief overview of legislation currently under consideration. There was then discussion.
- b) **Round Table Share: Town Meetings & Budgets** – Board members from each school district shared their experiences.
- c) **WWSU Study Grant** - Brigid reviewed the steps needed for the state grant that the WWEC decided to pursue, which would look at possible benefits of consolidation and be able to take advantage of incentives from the State. The grant of \$5,000 being applied for would likely be spent on facilitation. Michelle has

gotten a report back listing the further information needed for this grant, including the need for a motion from each local board plus a statement about what the grant will be used for. One possible theme is combining the middle school programs with shared use of the two campuses. Another suggested theme is about some elementary schools coming together and having certain grades at each of the elementary schools, with shared students making for larger classes and peer groups. It was suggested that the benefits should be identified – and whether they are they mostly qualitative, or mostly quantitative (cost). Brigid noted that there needs to be a compelling reason for change to get people to buy into it, and probably qualitative reasons are the strongest. She also pointed out that time and energy from Central Office administrators and board members will be needed. There was further discussion and then agreement to the following summary statement for local board action.

STATEMENT: The grant would be used to identify and prioritize ways that we can work together to improve educational quality and reduce costs within our schools. Each of the local boards will vote on supporting the grant application and this stated purpose.

- 3) **Other Business** – Brigid reported that other SUs are passing resolutions regarding legislation, and she read one from North Country SU.
- 4) **Adjournment** – Garrett MacCurtain moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. Jill Ellis seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Minutes recorded by Dale Smeltzer