

Washington West Supervisory Union Executive Committee
"Official" Meeting Minutes for February 11, 2015
Washington West Central Office

WWEC Board Members Present: Eve Frankel, Doug Mosle, Rob Rosen, Dale Smeltzer, Jim Burmester, Steve Odefey, Ben Smith, Deb Hunter

Other Board Members: Heidi Spear and Jill Ellis (both from Fayston)

Administrators: Brigid Scheffert, Michelle Baker, Donarae Dawson

- 1) Eve Frankel called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.
- 2) Action Items
 - a) **Approve minutes of 1/14/15.** Rob Rosen moved to approve the minutes of January 14, 2015 as written. Ben Smith seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- 3) Discussion Items
 - a) **Policy F29 Student Self-Expression and Student Distribution of Literature** - Brigid Scheffert provided background about the work on this policy which had been tabled from the packet last year. A revised version was sent out recently, making some changes from the draft in the original packet. The administrative team discussed this policy recently and unanimously agreed that it is needed. Brigid reviewed the language of the current draft with board members. There were questions and comments about the purpose and need for this policy, and extended discussion. It was finally agreed that this policy should be revised to have broader guidelines that better represent constitutional law, and take out subjective terms. A majority of board members are not opposed to having a policy on this. Brigid will take on the rewrite, and bring it back when she can be present at the meeting.
 - b) **Moving Forward with AOE Study Grant** - Brigid noted that this will be a broader discussion, since discussion of how to proceed with soliciting grant funds is tied to legislation currently under consideration. In addition to information sent out by email, she passed out two handouts: Strategic Solutions & Opportunities for Leaders - A guide to Vermont REDs, Voluntary Mergers and Joint Ventures (produced by VSBA, VSA, VPA, AOE, VSBIT); and the VT AOE "Summary of Incentives Associated with Merger Activities" (January 2015). She suggested that one of the options to consider is to start with a \$5,000 grant to have someone come in and facilitate joint meetings of board members to help formulate the questions and then perhaps proceed with applying for one of the larger grants with a specific idea. Her main concerns are about the manpower available at WWSU Central Office. There was considerable discussion of the issues and how best to proceed in the interests of WWSU. Brigid suggested that the application for the \$5 K grant could be done with just a letter, written by Brigid and Michelle. In addition, it might be useful ask Steve Dale from VSBA to come to a meeting to provide more information on the options to study such as forming a RED. It was suggested that it would be good to start to put the message out to teachers and public about the issues being considered, such as middle school consolidation.
MOTION: Rob Rosen moved to authorize the Superintendent to apply for a Revenue Code 3714, Act 156 Joint Services Facilitation Reimbursement grant of \$5,000. Deb Hunter seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- 4) **Other Business** – Board members thanked Ben Smith for his years of service on the WWSU board, since this was his last meeting.
- 5) Eve Frankel moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 p.m. Ben Smith seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Minutes recorded by Dale Smeltzer