

Washington West Supervisory Union Executive Committee
"OFFICIAL" Meeting Minutes for January 9, 2013
Washington West Central Office

WWEC Members Present: Susan MacLean-Daley (Fayston), Deb Hunter (Harwood), Dale Smeltzer (Harwood), Kaj Samsom (Moretown, arrived at 5:50 p.m.), Eve Frankel (Waitsfield), Rob Rosen (Warren), Steve Odefey (Waterbury-Duxbury, arrived 5:40 p.m.), and Ben Smith (Waterbury-Duxbury)

Administrators Present: Brigid Scheffert, Sheila Rivers, Michelle Baker, Donarae Pike

Others: Lisa Atwood (Co-Principal, Harwood)

Ben Smith called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

1) Action Items:

- a) **Approve minutes of December 13, 2012:** Rob Rosen moved to approve the minutes of December 13, 2012 as written. Susan MacLean-Daley seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

2) Discussion Items

- a) **Debrief Seminar #1 Presentation and Identify Next Steps** – Brigid Scheffert asked board members for comments on the seminar. Everyone was very positive about the presentation and the attendance, with appreciation expressed for the work that went into preparing it. There was consensus that we should definitely do another one as the audience seemed to be enthusiastic about making change as well as aware of the need for change. (Steve Odefey arrived at 5:40 p.m.). There was discussion about the information and what the future needs are. (Kaj Samsom arrived at 5:50 p.m.) Eve Frankel suggested we should be setting a goal to use more communication tools to create more visibility about what's happening in WWSU. Suggestions for a future seminar were:
 - i) Parents – need examples of what's happening now.
 - ii) The March seminar could be a show and tell of what's in place in our schools. Also – what does it mean to my child, to make it relevant to parents.
 - iii) More on the Common Core standards is another follow up that was mentioned and there was discussion about whether this make sense. Sheila could cover the shifts – what is it all supposed to mean – wrap it in to anticipated changes (e.g. math habits of mind) rather than deal individual standards by themselves.
 - iv) Examples from schools around the country that are ahead of us – communicate a sense of the possible.
 - v) The next seminar after March – have some dynamic teachers put together some presentations about how to move forward, using school-wide initiatives that are in place.

The March Seminar will coincide with the WWSU Board reorganization meeting which will be March 25 (Monday). Video recording will be set up for the next seminars, to allow people who didn't attend to be able to access them. Dale Smeltzer suggested a future agenda item of considering the initiation of a limited elementary school choice within WWSU; there was interest in looking at this.

- b) **Superintendent Evaluation** – This is done every other year, and a web survey will be sent out to local boards and WWEC members (and principals and Central Office) in February. Local boards should be prepared to work on this at their meetings, as the first part of the process. There needs to be a reminder to have it on the local board agenda for February.
- c) **Tuitioning in Students & Keeping Students When Residency Changes: Policy, Procedures & Protocols in WWSU** – Brigid noted that she and Michelle are trying to pull together the past practices, and develop recommendations to comply with current statute language about student residency, so that board members are informed and can consider whether to develop consistent practices among the districts. Equity is needed as well. She gave an example that came up in Waterbury-Duxbury recently, and there was discussion about the varied issues. What is usual and customary around the state is that if it is within 6 weeks from the end of the school year or a student is going to graduate from a unit, then the student

can stay without paying tuition; otherwise tuition must be paid or the student moves to their new district. Brigid noted that administrators are interested in clarity about what the criteria would be around these decisions. There was considerable discussion and some disagreement about what the practices should be. Brigid stated that more work will need to be done on this and noted that it is the issue where there is the most disparity between the districts. The issues need to be clarified especially concerning the possible license violations for administrators.

- d) **Video and Audio Recording in the Schools** – Brigid took the edits made on this policy from the previous meeting back to the Admin Team, and she presented a new draft that addressed the concerns brought up. Several further clarifying edits were made. Michelle showed board members examples of what the cameras looked like. The Admin Team now strongly recommends that the cameras should be running all the time, and not simply after problems have occurred, given the requirements about addressing issues of harassment in a prompt fashion. Anything that goes on in the bus is the responsibility of the school, and there is a responsibility to provide a safe environment. The Admin Team feels that the advantages of making this change in practice outweigh the disadvantages. They feel that it is important to be judicious about how it gets reviewed or retained, but have it running all the time with it being recorded over every 30 days unless needed for review or retention. (Rob Rosen left at 7:10 p.m.) Board members concurred with this recommendation from the Admin Team and these last edits to accomplish this change will be made and the policy will be put on fast track for adoption at March meetings.
- e) **Policy Maintenance Protocol** – Brigid noted that she should have sent this out with the packet, and she will do this for the next meeting, so that board members can review it and bring any questions.
- f) **Policy Packet #3** – Brigid reminded board members that local board comments need to be ready for the next meeting, when work will start to compile comments.
- g) **Agenda Planning for Remainder of Year** – Brigid reminded board members that the legislature is now back in session, and that education quality and spending will be one of the priorities of the governor. The new secretary of education will be only for one year, with a national search starting in the fall. House Education committee wants to visit 3 SUs this year, and WWSU has been selected for their first visit. Brigid suggested that it would make sense to connect this with the February WWEC meeting day (or January 30) so that an afternoon meeting could be arranged to allow WWEC members to interact with them. There was discussion about the agenda items scheduled for the next several meetings, as well as other issues to be covered. There was support for having another retreat this year, and it was suggested that this be considered at the March seminar.

3) **Other Business** –

- a) Board members shared whether they expected to be continuing on their local boards, and serving on WWEC again. Ben informed people that he is in his 3rd year as chair and a new person will have to take on this role.
- b) Ben stated that he was impressed with the Technology Audit that he received for his district, and that it contained a lot of in-depth and valuable information that will be useful for planning.

- 4) **Adjournment** – Steve Odefey moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 p.m. Ben Smith seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Minutes recorded by Dale Smeltzer