

Washington West Supervisory Union Executive Committee
"Official" Meeting Minutes for January 14, 2015
Washington West Central Office

WWEC Board Members Present: Eve Frankel, Doug Mosle, Rob Rosen, Dale Smeltzer, Jim Burmester, Steve Odefey (arrived at 5:40 p.m.), Ben Smith (arrived at 5:53 p.m.), Deb Hunter (arrived at 6:00 p.m.)

Other Board Members: David Goodman (Harwood), Kate O'Neill (Moretown)

Administrators: Brigid Scheffert, Michelle Baker, Donarae Dawson

- 1) Eve Frankel called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m. and noted the following amendments to the agenda - approve calendar for FY16; truancy procedure; class size document; other business.
- 2) Action Items
 - a) **Approve minutes of 12/10/14.** Rob moved to approve the minutes of Dec. 10, 2014 as written. Doug Mosle seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
 - b) **Approve and Sign 4-Yr Financing for Server Replacement with SymQuest** - Michelle Baker noted that this is being done in partnership with Harwood. \$7800 per year over 4 years is the cost, and doing it this way saves money for Harwood. Rob Rosen moved to approve the agreement. Dale Smeltzer seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Steve Odefey arrived at 5:40 p.m.

- c) **Calendar for 2015-16** - Brigid Scheffert handed out the draft calendar being presented. A regional calendar is required, with the Tech Center, but we participate in two different tech centers and their calendars don't agree. Ours is always in line with Barre. One change for the coming year is that Early Release Days are being removed, since they have not been the best solution to meet the needs intended. All schools will drop to 178 student days in order to accomplish the needed teacher professional development. Rob Rosen moved to approve the student calendar. Doug Mosle seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- 3) Discussion Items
 - a) **How is our current governance working? What would be gained and lost by consolidation? Should we apply for an AOE grant to consider SU consolidation? If yes, what has changed since we decided not to do so four years ago?** Brigid had sent some info to board members that afternoon, including numbers for a Tri-Town idea being considered for Fayston, Waitsfield and Moretown; and a link to the WCSU Efficiency Study Report just completed with an AOE grant. She also noted that statute allows for "joint contract schools", without changing governance. *(Ben Smith arrived at 5:53 p.m.)*. She briefly reviewed the similar discussion that was held by WWEC four years ago, where either cost savings were not anticipated, and/or there was not interest in making that kind of governance change. *(Deb Hunter arrived at 6:00 p.m.)* There was discussion amongst board members of the varied aspects, and agreement that studying and understanding the options is essential to help decide how best to move forward with small schools plus improving education quality for all students. The next step will be for Brigid and Michelle to learn more, and bring back info about the different levels of grants and what is required from local boards, plus what best meets what we're seeking to accomplish – which is studying all options.
 - b) **Summary Info on All Local Budgets** - Michelle provided a handout with the information on the current status of local budgets, numbers of Equalized Pupils, and each town's CLA. There was brief discussion.
 - c) **What Advocacy do we see as necessary in the legislative session this year?** - Various issues were discussed - the tradeoffs between property and income taxes as revenue sources, direct correlation of budget with what taxpayers pay, and what services might best be paid for on a statewide basis since they are not directly related to basic education (SpEd, transportation, mental health, e.g.) with the rest funded at the local level. *(Rob Rosen left at 7:18 p.m.)*
 - d) **Planning the Mar 31 WWSU Board Reorganization Meeting:** It was agreed that it would be good to provide an update on the status of the DOE Study Grant being proposed - what we're doing and timeline, and have a conversation about guiding questions for the grant; as well as a Legislative Update.

- e) **Truancy Procedure** - Brigid reported that the current procedures have created some complications because they do not mention "unexcused" when referring to student absences, and some parents have taken this to task. This has meant the procedures have to be revised - they have now been changed to refer to five "unexcused" absences, rather than just five "absences". Given that a county-wide procedure is required and board action was taken previously on the Procedures when the policy was adopted in 2010, WWEC action is needed. Steve Odefey moved to approve F30 Truancy Prevention/Attendance Procedures to reflect the actual implementation of the policy. Ben Smith seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- f) **Other Business** - Brigid reported that she has another hip replacement scheduled for Feb 24, which she has carefully timed around her varied responsibilities.
- 4) Ben Smith moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 p.m. Doug Mosle seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Minutes recorded by Dale Smeltzer