

**Washington West Supervisory Union Executive Committee  
&  
Act 46 Study Committee  
19 November 2015  
Harwood Library  
5:30 PM**

**Approved Minutes**

**Attendance**

**WWEC Members:** Doug Mosle (Fayston), Rosemarie White (Harwood), Garrett MacCurtain (Harwood), Rob Rosen (Warren) (7:00PM), Jason Gibbs (Waterbury-Duxbury), Kate O'Neill (Moretown), Christine Sullivan (alternate for Waitsfield)

**Act 46 Study Group Members:** Jill Ellis (Fayston), Rosemarie White (HU ex-officio), Garrett MacCurtain (HU ex-officio), Gabe Gilman (Moretown), Christine Sullivan (Waitsfield), Reed McCracken (W-D for Waterbury), Jason Gibbs (W-D for Duxbury)

**WWSU Administration:** Brigid Nease, Superintendent; Michelle Baker, WWSU Director of Finance and Operations; Donarae Dawson, WWSU Director of Special Education; Sheila Soule, WWSU Director of Curriculum

**Other Board Members:**

**Others:** Jeff Maher (Act 46 consultant), Walter Nardelli (Act 46 consultant), Stanley Blow III (Waterbury Record), MRV-TV camera operator, Lara Seaberg (minute taker)

**Call to Order:** Gabe Gilman, chair of the Study Committee and Garrett MacCurtain, vice chair of the WWEC called the respective meetings to order at 5:44 PM.

**Approval of 11 November 2015 Minutes**

**Study Group Action:** Jill Ellis made a motion to approve the minutes of the 11 November 2015 meeting and Gabe Gilman seconded. The motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

**WWEC Action:** Rosemarie White moved to approve the minutes of the 11 November 2015 minutes. Garrett MacCurtain seconded and the motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

**WWEC Action:** Rosemarie White informed the committee that the Board warrants of the 11 November meeting needed to be amended to include a Board Warrant that was not confirmed at the 11 November meeting. Kate O'Neill moved to confirm WWSU Board Warrant 1065 dated 28 October 2015 in the amount of \$164,465.86. Garrett MacCurtain seconded and the motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

**Study Committee Discussion Items**

**Consultants' Report:** Act 46 consultants Jeff Maher and Walter Nardelli presented the committee with information regarding a combined district and board structures, proportional representation as well as

wording to define town districts in the Articles, such as necessary and or recommended. Discussion and question and answer followed.

Kate O'Neill gave a report to the committee about an Education Committee meeting she attended.

**Reports from Administration:** Brigid Nease discussed the need for town by town story boards to illustrate the advantages of a yes vote and disadvantages of a no vote for each town.

Michelle Baker presented a financial modeling from the Act 46 Implementation Project. The modeling had very early tax estimates for the towns. There was a discussion around the presentation and estimates.

**Board Members Share:** Jill Ellis shared with the committee that the Fayston Board discussed local school councils or groups having some input when it came to hiring principals.

**Articles of Agreement:** Gabe Gilman shared with the committee that as of yet there had been no input from the community using the WWSU email address for comments regarding Act 46. Brigid Nease informed the committee that she had received one email reply to her OP ED at her WWSU email.

**Identify Next Steps:** Transitioning to a real text of the Articles was identified as a future agenda item.

**Study Group Adjournment:** On a motion made by Jill Ellis and seconded by Gabe Gilman the Study Group adjourned at 8:12 PM.

On a motion by Garrett MacCurtain and seconded by Rosemarie White at 8:12 PM the WWEC voted to move into Executive Session with Administration to ratify the master contract between WWEA and HEA to include for all towns in Washington West Supervisory Union beginning on 1 July 2015 and ending on 30 July 2017 and to authorize the vice chair to sign the contract. The Executive Committee came out of Executive Session at 8:18 PM. Garrett MacCurtain moved to ratify the contract and authorize the vice chair to sign the contract. Rob Rosen seconded and the motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

**Budget Discussion:** Michelle Baker presented a first draft of the 2017 WWSU budget. The general budget level service has a 1.5% increase. There is a new position with at the SU level of a 1.0 FTE project manager. There is also an 11.3% increase in the general assessment. The SU costs the towns approximately 3% each year. The state is requiring SUs to pay for and employ Special Education staff and faculty. Special Education will be centralized at the SU level and assessed out to individual schools based on cost. The cost to be assessed out to the schools for Special Education based on actual costs incurred by schools is \$5,227,924. Para educators will remain at the local levels. The cost of transportation based on routes and mileage incurred by each school that will be assessed to the schools will be \$1,143,284 and the cost of education coaches, based on actual costs of each school, to assessed to the schools is \$30,865. The cost for the ELL program to be assessed back to each school based on actual cost is \$72,378. Budget discussion followed the presentation.

On a motion made by Doug Mosle and seconded by Rosemarie White the WWEC voted to adjourn at 8:52 PM.