

**WWSU Board Meeting and Public Forum  
31 March 2016  
Harwood Library**

**Approved minutes**

**Attendance**

**WWSU Board Members:**

Duxbury: Matt Schrag  
Fayston: Jill Ellis, Doug Mosle, Heidi Spear  
Harwood: Rosemarie White, Maureen McCracken  
Moretown: Gabe Gilman, Kate O'Neill, Jim Burmester  
Waitsfield: Christine Sullivan, Barclay Rappeport  
Warren: Alycia Biondo, Jen Watkins, Adam Greshin  
Waterbury-Duxbury: Alex Thomsen, Jason Gibbs, Reed McCracken

**Other Board Members:** Kitty Friedman (Fayston), Marie Schmukal (Warren), Thomas Cahalan (Duxbury), Jeremy Gulley (Waitsfield)

**WWSU Administration:** Brigid Nease, Superintendent; Michelle Baker, WWSU Director of Finance and Operations

**Consultants:** Jeff Maher, Walter Nardelli

**Public:** Jerry and Diana Griffith, Blair Scaglione, Valene Bigelow, Alison Duckworth, Doug Bergstein, Michael Hock, Katie Sullivan, Rachael Potts, Rachel Foley, Arnie Belknap, Patti Lewis, Laura Butterfield, Kaiya Korb, Rob Williams, Susan Laskaris, Thom McAllister, Deb Fadden, Becky Auger, Leslie Proteau, Beth Schoellkopf, Stanley Blow III (Waterbury Record), Lara Seaberg (minute taker), MRV-TV camera operator

**Call to Order:** Superintendent Brigid Nease called the meeting to order at 6:25 PM.

**WWSU Board Reorganization**

**Elect a Chair:** Jill Ellis made a motion to nominate Christine Sullivan as WWSU Board Chair. Alex Thomsen seconded the nomination and Christine Sullivan was elected unanimously with no abstentions.

**Elect a Vice Chair:** Doug Mosle moved to nominate Garrett MacCurtain as Vice Chair and Thomas Cahalan seconded. Garrett MacCurtain was elected unanimously with no abstentions.

**Elect a Treasurer:** Alex Thomsen moved to nominate Doug Mosle as Treasurer. Alycia Biondo seconded and Doug Mosle was elected unanimously with no abstentions.

**Elect an Assistant Treasurer:** Alex Thomsen made a motion to designate Laura Titus as Assistant Treasurer and Alycia Biondo seconded. The motion passed unanimously with no abstentions and Laura Titus was designated Assistant Treasurer.

**Elect a Finance Officer:** Alex Thomsen moved to nominate Rosemarie White as Finance officer. Alycia Biondo seconded and Rosemarie White was elected unanimously with no abstentions.

**Elect an Assistant Finance Officer:** Alex Thomsen made a motion to elect Jill Ellis as Assistant Finance Officer and Alycia Biondo seconded. The motion passed unanimously with no abstentions and Jill Ellis was elected as Assistant Finance Officer.

**Designate a Recording Secretary:** Jill Ellis moved to designate Lara Seaberg as Recording Secretary. Alex Thomsen seconded and the motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

**Designate Newspapers of Record:** Jill Ellis moved to designate The Waterbury Record, The Valley Reporter and Times Argus as newspapers of record. Alex Thomsen seconded and the motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

### **Confirm the Agenda**

**Additions or deletions:** Brigid Nease needed an action item added to change the last day of school from Monday, 13 June 2016 to Friday, 10 June 2016. Alycia Biondo made a motion to change the last day of school to Friday, 10 June 2016. Alex Thomsen seconded and the motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

**Board Warrants:** Rosemarie White made a motion to confirm Board Warrants 1128, 1135, 1142 and 1143 in the amount of \$250,023.02. Jill Ellis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously with no abstentions.

### **Board Warrants**

#### **FY 2015-2016**

1128	03/02/16	\$	6,689.43
1135	03/16/16	\$	115,053.27
1142	03/20/16	\$	128,230.32
1143	03/20/16	\$	50.00
<b>TOTAL BOARD WARRANTS</b>		<b>\$</b>	<b>250,023.02</b>

**Act 46 Public Forum Panel Discussion and Q&A:** Gabe Gilman opened the floor for the Act 46 Public Forum Discussion and Q & A at 6:40 PM. Mr. Gilman gave an overview of Act 46 and the

actions and choices the Study Committee has made. Highlights presented in the overview of Act 46 are as follows:

>Act 46 was passed in the 2015 Legislative session.

>Act 46 offers property tax incentives. The Accelerated Merger projections include the tax reduction incentive of \$.10 in FY 2018, \$.08 in FY 2019, \$.06 in FY 2020, \$.04 in FY 2021 and \$.02 in FY 2022.

>There are three tiers to the tax incentives depending on the vote. Tier One - All tax incentives, Tier Two - Lose the first year of incentives and Tier Three - no tax incentives.

Christine Sullivan reviewed the Articles of Agreement. The Articles of Agreement can be found on the WWSU website in the Important Documents section under the Act 46 Tab of the site Homepage.

There was discussion about Act 46 and district consolidation. Questions and concerns were posed to the board members and administration and were addressed. One of the concerns was that there was not enough public input allowed when the Articles were being formed. Jason Gibbs informed the public that all meetings are patently open to the public. A question asked was where the monetary incentives were coming from. Adam Greshin responded that the tax incentives are coming from the Education Fund and from districts who do not participate in an Act 46 merger.

Discussion and Q& A continued for the rest of the meeting.

**Adjournment:** On a motion made by Gabe Gilman and seconded by Christine Sullivan the Board voted to adjourn at 9:45 PM.

The next WWSU Executive Committee meeting is Wednesday 13 April 2016 at 5:30 PM in the Harwood Library.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lara Seaberg  
Minute taker