

Harwood Union Board of Directors Meeting
7 January 2015
Harwood Library
6:00 PM

Unapproved Minutes

Attendance

Board: Deb Hunter, Chair; David Goodman, Vice Chair; Stephen Sands; Dale Smeltzer; Garret MacCurtain; Dan Raddock

Administration: Brigid Scheffert, Superintendent; Lisa Atwood, Co-Principal; Amy Rex, Co-Principal; Michelle Baker, WWSU Director of Finance and Operations; Joel Fitzgerald, WWSU Building Operations and Maintenance Director

Student Representatives: Emmy Kelley, Claire Brundage, Evan Fennelly

Staff: Tracy Holden, HU Director of Facilities

Public: Brian Moody, Heidi Turgeon- Baird, Bruce Sklar, Bill Gibble, Katie Barany, Nick Detter, Marcus Grace, Mary Holden, Matthew Klein, Lisa Scagliotti, Chelsea Turley, Sarah Butler, Carolyn Feldman, Matthew Seaberg, Moretown; Jonathan Van Briesen, MRV-TV; Lara Seaberg, Minute taker

Call to order: Chair Deb Hunter called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

Approval of minutes: Dale Smeltzer moved to approve the 17 December 2014 minutes as written and Garret MacCurtain seconded. The motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

Finance Committee: Stephen Sands shared with the Board that he and Joel Fitzgerald had met to discuss the next steps for a school redesign study now that the bids have come in for the study. Joel Fitzgerald informed the Board that the bids would be available for review. Stephen Sands informed the Board that he and Joel Fitzgerald have been meeting to discuss the possibility of Harwood becoming an emergency shelter. They have discussed the cost to the school versus grants that the school could receive for becoming a shelter. Joel Fitzgerald shared with the Board that the Storm Waste Water Run Off project grant has been received and the design phase will soon begin to include possible paving. Joel Fitzgerald brought an action item to the Board. The 6 year old entry door system is down and the school has been working with Control Technologies to fix it. Control Technologies is suggesting a new system at the cost of \$8,500. Mr. Fitzgerald informed the Board that installing a new system would only take days versus possibly months trying to fix the problem and the uncertainty of ever fully fixing the

issue. Lisa Atwood is concerned about continually throwing money into a faulty system. Dale Smeltzer informed the administration that they do not need Board approval for a project of that cost.

Board Warrants: Stephen Sands made a motion to confirm Board Warrants 49 and 1007 in the amount of \$ 519,763.91. Dale Smeltzer seconded and the motion passed unanimously with no abstention.

Board Warrants

FY 2014-2015

49	12/31/14	Accounts Payable	\$ 510,554.73
1007	01/17/15	Accounts Payable	\$ 9,209.18
Total Board Warrants			\$ 519,763.91

Michelle Baker informed the Board that the proposed tuition rate for the 2015-2016 school year is set at \$15,200. David Goodman made a motion to approve the set tuition rate of \$15,200 for the 2015-2016 school year. Garret MacCurtain seconded the motion and it passed unanimously with no abstentions.

Michelle Baker presented the General Fund Budget Draft #3 to the Board. Copies of the budget draft were passed out to all present. Using a 5% increase she went through the expenditures line by line. Amy Rex presented the staffing changes in the budget draft. Michelle Baker informed the Board that the tax rate estimates for the Harwood budget will be \$1.76, an increase of 14 cents or 8.3%.

Deb Hunter invited the public participants to join in the discussion or add comments. Language teacher, Marcus Grace discussed the World Language program. Emmy Kelley and Claire Brundage both spoke in support of the Latin program.

Marcus Grace asked how the budget draft would be disseminated. Lisa Atwood said that it would be put on the Harwood website. Science teacher, Chelsea Turley discussed the science and STEM program. Marcus Grace read a letter to the Board from Harwood alum Gabrielle Meade, class of 2009 in support of the World Language program.

Student Government: Emmy Kelley shared with the Board that the Student Government is beginning to hold class meetings with the student body and they will be giving the Board update reports. Claire Brundage informed the Board that Student Government hoped to have more student involvement with the Board. Lisa Atwood shared that she knows that the Board is interested in what the students think and that their presence at Board meetings matter. The Board members agreed and thanked the student representatives for their input and attendance.

New Business: Teacher, Steve Rand discussed the Rwanda trip with the Board. Brigid Scheffert read an informational email from the trip insurance company in regards to Ebola and traveling to Africa at the time. It was shared that parents are aware of the concerns and that many are comfortable with their students taking the trip. Steve Rand informed with the Board that he is comfortable at the time about taking students to Rwanda but if there was even one case of Ebola in Rwanda he would cancel the trip himself. The Board consensus is that the Board will support and approve the trip but it does not want to be financially responsible if the trip is cancelled.

There was an update and discussion of the Latin model grading system.

Lisa Atwood shared the new SU wide Board agenda template. She gave the Board members copies to review. After a brief review and discussion the Board agreed to try the new format.

Brigid Scheffert shared the annual School Choice Agreement and Timeline with the Board and asked that they approve the agreement. Dale Smeltzer made a motion to approve the Winooski Valley Region & Statewide Choice of Public High School under Act 129 (Sec. 34. § 822d 2A) Timeline – 2015-2016 School Year. David Goodman seconded and the motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

The Board was asked to approve a teacher sabbatical at a cost of \$35,000. The Board decided to vote on approval at the 21 January 2015 meeting.

Superintendent's Report: Brigid Scheffert informed the Board that there was an SU wide, all Board meeting and that education funding was the main topic. She also shared information about the legislative House Education Committee membership with the Board. Superintendent Scheffert informed the Board that the Executive Committee will be revisiting the topic of mergers and consolidations in January.

Academic Planning and Policy Committee: Dale Smeltzer informed the full Board that the APP committee had met and looked at a model policy on proficiency based grading requirements and at Policy Packet #5.

The Harwood Annual Meeting was set for Monday, 2 March 2015 at 5:00 PM.

Topics for next meeting: Topics for the next meeting will include an update on the entry door software in the Facilities report, the FY 2016 budget, school choice, the annual meeting warning and first readings of two local policies which are the Graduation Requirements policy and the HIV- STI policy.

Garret MacCurtain moved to adjourn, Dan Raddock seconded and the meeting adjourned at 9:25 PM.

The next full Board meeting is Wednesday, 21 January 2015 at 5:30 PM in the Harwood Library.

Respectfully submitted,
Lara Seaberg
Minute taker