

Harwood Union Board of Directors Meeting
Harwood Library
16 April 2014
6 PM

Unapproved Minutes

Attendance

Board: Deb Hunter, Chair; David Goodman, Vice Chair; Dale Smeltzer, Garrett MacCurtain

Administration: Lisa Atwood, Co-Principal; Amy Rex, Co-Principal; Ray Daigle, WWSU Director of Facilities; Michelle Baker, WWSU Director of Finance; Sheila Soule, WWSU Director of Curriculum

Staff: Lisa Lemieux, Sarah Ibson, Ellen Berrings

Student Representative: Ethan Carr

Public: Sam Nishi, student; Melinda Carr, Moretown; Jean Wry, Fayston; Bob Baron, Warren; Charlotte Strasser, Waterbury Center; Cathy Stapinski, MRV-TV; Lara Seaberg, minute taker

Call to order: Chair Deb Hunter called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

Student Address to Board: Sam Nishi addressed the Board to ask that they take the New England Regional Track Championships into consideration when they schedule graduation dates for 2015 and beyond. Mr. Nishi is the new captain of the track team and is concerned that certain graduation dates could interfere with the championships and affect some students. David Goodman asked how many students might be affected next year. Lisa Atwood answered that according to Sue Duprat Harwood sends at most 5 students per year to the championships.

Approval of Minutes: Dale Smeltzer moved to approve the minutes of the 19 March meeting as written. David Goodman seconded and the motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

Presentation by Rowland Fellows: Rowland Fellows Sarah Ibson and Ellen Berrings presented an update on their work following their fellowships and half year sabbaticals. Their work has been focused around the Harwood Graduate Expectations. Within the HGEs they are especially focused on student Personal Learning Plans and how to redesign Advisory.

GPA Presentation: Lisa Atwood and David Goodman gave a presentation about a possible change in how GPAs are calculated. Student government representative Ethan Carr gave a student view of the calculating of GPA. He explained to the Board that the student body was interested in doing away with class rank and weighted grading and brought their concerns to

the administration. Lisa Atwood and David Goodman gave a presentation about the information they have been collecting on changing the way student GPAs are calculated. Lisa Atwood also explained how the administration would like to proceed with moving to the Latin System of calculating GPAs. Dale Smeltzer explained the public that the next step would be for the Academic Planning and Policy Committee to form a policy draft with the proposed changes and present it at the May Board of Directors meeting for a first reading and discussions and then again at the June meeting for a second reading.

Dale Smeltzer made a motion to direct the Academic Planning and Policy Committee to bring a policy to the May meeting for changing the grading system. Garrett MacCurtain seconded the motion and it passed unanimously with no abstentions.

Bob Baron asked if the public could have access to the policy draft prior to the May meeting so they could review the draft. Lisa Atwood said that the school could include the policy draft in the Weekly Update letter.

New Business: Amy Rex discussed the school's membership in the League of Innovative Schools. She informed the Board that there is grant money available to members through the NextGen Personalized Learning initiative. She passed around a letter of intent to the League of Innovative Schools indicating Harwood's intent to participate in the NextGen initiative.

Dale Smeltzer made a motion to endorse participation via the League of Innovative Schools in implementing personal learning sites and authorize the Board chair to sign the letter of intent. Garrett MacCurtain seconded and the motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

Finance Committee: Ray Daigle gave the facilities part of the Finance Committee report. He informed the Board that the school had requested bids from three roofing companies for re-roofing the bus barn and that Iron Horse had been the most competitive. He asked the Board for approval of the contract with Iron Horse Roofing in the amount of \$21,350 for the replacement of the bus barn roof. He also announced that he had recently received word that the school had won an award for energy efficiency from the Vermont Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence. Lisa Atwood explained that this was only possible because Mr. Daigle had spear headed the school energy initiatives. There will be an award ceremony at UVM on 14 May. Mr. Daigle informed the Board that this would be his last Board meeting because he had accepted a new position and would be leaving the SU after 9 May.

The Board would like to express their heartfelt appreciation for all that Mr. Daigle has done and they deeply regret seeing him leave.

Dale Smeltzer moved to approve the contract with Iron Horse Roofing for the bus barn roof replacement for \$21,350. David Goodman seconded and the motion passed unanimously with abstentions.

Dale Smeltzer moved to confirm Board Warrants 67, 68 and 71 and David Goodman seconded the motion. It passed unanimously with no abstentions.

BOARD WARRANTS

FY 2013-2014

67	04/04/14	Accounts Payable	\$	105,469.50
68	04/04/14	Maintenance Reserve	\$	1,275.00
71	04/16/14	Accounts Payable	\$	313,309.27
Total Board Warrants			\$	420,053.77

Academic Planning and Policy Committee: Dale Smeltzer shared that the grading policy change process is now moving forward. She informed the Board that Policy Packet 4 will be brought to the May meeting and that they are doing away with a student survey policy. She asked Board members to review the policies.

Co-Principal's Report: Lisa Atwood asked for Board approval of an out of state field trip to be held from 25 to 28 July 2014. Maureen Charron Shea will be taking no more than 4 students in grades 10 through 12 to the annual Best Buddies Leadership Conference at Indiana University in Bloomington Indiana. Grant monies will be covering most of the trip costs.

David Goodman moved to endorse the trip and Dale Smeltzer seconded. It passed unanimously with no abstentions.

Confirmation of Topics for 21 May meeting: The topics for the May meeting will be setting a graduation date for 2015, Policy Packet 4 and the first reading of a Transcript and Grading Policy draft.

Executive Session: Dale Smeltzer made a motion to move into Executive session with members of the administration about personnel matters at 8:05 PM. The Board came out of Executive session at 8:19 with no action taken.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 by unanimous vote.

The next Board of Directors meeting is 21 May 2014 at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Lara Seaberg
Minute taker