

**Harwood Union Board of Directors Meeting  
Harwood Library  
18 December 2013  
6:00 PM**

**Unapproved minutes:**

**Attendance:**

**Board:** Deb Hunter, Chair; Chris Koliba, Vice Chair; Stephen Sands; Dan Raddock; David Goodman; Dale Smeltzer

**Administration:** Brigid Scheffert, Superintendent; Lisa Atwood, Co-principal; Amy Rex, Co-principal

**Staff:** Michelle Baker, Director of Finance; Ray Daigle, Director of Facilities; Michael Woods, Director of Student Services

**Public:** Jill Schwenderman, Waitsfield/Staff; Elizabeth Managan, HUMS teacher; Jon Potts, HUMS teacher; Brian Wagner, HUMS teacher; Kate Williams, Waitsfield; Jacki McCarty, HUMS teacher; Eva Frankel, Waitsfield; Jane Devereux, Waitsfield; Emmy Kelly, Fayston; Doreen Kelly, Fayston; Laura Caffry, Waitsfield; Jennifer Peterson, Waitsfield; Chloe Emler, Fayston; Celeste Emler, Fayston; Morgan Vasseur, Fayston; Ellen Berrings, HU staff; Amy Jamieson, Waitsfield; Walker Caffry Randall, Waitsfield; Maureen Charron-Shea, HU SLP; Tom Strasseur, HU staff; Marlene Maron, Waterbury; Alexandra Thompson, Waterbury; Steve Rand, Waterbury; Tedin Lange, South Duxbury; Patti Kaufmann, Warren; Maria Burfoot, Warren; Callie Anderson, Warren; Denise Russo, Moretown; Marge Skroski, Warren; Kim Belongia, Waterbury; Anna Belongia, Waterbury; Sarah Ibson, HUMS teacher; Jonah Ibson, HUHS teacher; Dan Eckstein, Warren; Noah Eckstein, Warren; Katherine Cadwell, HUHS teacher; Lisa Lemieux, HUHS staff; Carolyn Feldman, HUHS teacher; Catherine B, Warren; Claire Brundgae, Waterbury; Nina Brundage, Waterbury; Lisa Scagliotti, Waterbury; Peter Kulis, Waterbury; Sally Kulis, Waterbury; Charlotte Strasseur, Waterbury; Elizabeth Cadwell, Waitsfield; James Jennings, Duxbury; Kevin Kelly, HUHS teacher; Cathy Stapinski, MRV-TV; Lara Seaberg, minute taker.

**Call to order:** Chair Deb Hunter called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

**Approval of Minutes:** Dale Smeltzer moved to approve draft #2 of the 4 December 2013 minutes. Steve Sands seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously with no abstentions.

**Citizens' Request to Address the Board:** None.

**Middle school teachers presentation:** Middle school teachers Jon Potts, Elizabeth Managan, Jacki McCarty and Brian Wagner gave a presentation on how iPads are used by students and teachers in the One to One program. The middle school teachers shared that they use the SAMR Model for iPad integration. Brian Wagner showed how students used iPads to create a YouTube

video as part of a science project. Jon Potts explained that he uses Schoology.com in his English classes. Elizabeth Managan shared how the One to One program makes it easier for students to work on reading and writing skills and to use speech to text technology if needed. Jacki McCarty showed a movie trailer that students made using an iPad about a book they had read and also explained the use of Badge Stack with students.

**Co-principal's presentation:** Amy Rex gave a presentation about the proposed 9<sup>th</sup> grade re-design. She shared that 125 of HUHS students have IEPs and that some classes have an IEP population up to 50%. The presentation also gave a list of Vermont schools that have made the shift away from tracking. After the presentation Deb Hunter invited Harwood staff and the public to address the Board about the presentation and the proposed re-design. Dan Raddock read a letter to the board from Nancy Barron of Warren.

Following the public address the Board took a break from 8:14 to 8:23 PM.

**Finance Committee:** Chris Koliba suggested taking an informal poll of the Board regarding the school budget. All members of the Board support the 4.4% budget increase. Dan Raddock expressed concern that the public may concentrate more on the actual cost per pupil amount and suggested a communications strategy. Superintendent Scheffert informed the Board that the administration could bring the savings numbers to the next Board meeting. Lisa Atwood told the board that she has appreciated this budget process and the support of the Board. The next Finance committee meeting is 22 January 2014 at 5:00 PM.

**Policy Committee:** Dale Smeltzer informed the Board that there is no January Policy committee meeting. She shared that the Policy committee had been given a presentation about GPA and class rank. Lisa Atwood explained that she had met with the president of the Student Council. The Student Council is in favor of getting rid of class rank and going to the Latin Model. David Goodman explained what he learned about class rank versus the Latin Model.

**Washington West Executive Committee:** Brigid Scheffert informed the Board that the Executive committee focused on three points. The first two were the WWSU budget and the statewide calendar. The third was that she and the executive committee testified at the State Board of Education on Tuesday, 17 December 2013. She informed the Board that the State Board postponed their decision until 1 June 2014. Some discussion about the Granville/Hancock SU proposal followed. The next Washington West Executive Committee meeting is 8 January 2014 at 5:30 PM.

**Superintendent's Report:** None.

**New Business:** Dale Smeltzer made a motion to confirm Board Warrants 39, 42 and 43. Stephen Sands seconded. The motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

### **Board Warrants**

**FY 2013-2014**

39	12/04/13	Accounts Payable	\$ 147,437.71
42	12/18/13	Accounts Payable	\$ 533,888.53
43	12/18/13	Maintenance Reserve	\$ 2,129.00

**The Valedictorian Group/ Latin Model:** Lisa Atwood said that the next step would be to bring the Valedictorian Group/ Latin Model before the Policy Committee. Dan Raddock feels the changes make sense but that there needs to be the proper parent and student input.

**Co-Principal's Report:** Amy Rex and Lisa Atwood asked if there were any questions about the 9<sup>th</sup> grade re-design. David Goodman believes that a roadmap of the decision making would be helpful. Deb Hunter asked if something about the proposal needed to be put into print. Amy Rex informed the board that the 9<sup>th</sup> grade re-design looks very similar to how things now are except for one or two core courses. Deb Hunter asked the co-principals how the faculty feels about the proposal. Amy Rex answered that the English and Social Studies departments are in favor of the re-design but that the Science department has some concerns. Deb Hunter asked if the Crossett Brook Middle School students will be prepared and the co-principals said that they would communicate with CBMS as well as HUMS. Amy Rex also informed the Board that all students will need to meet competency levels in courses. Discussion followed about the re-design proposal. Amy Rex said she would send out a letter Friday that explains what the administration's plans are, what the next steps will be and thanking the community. Lisa Atwood informed the Board that the administration would have a meeting with the faculty the first week back from the Holiday break. Chris Koliba asked that there be specifics for the public in February. The co-principals said they would ask for input from parents and students in January.

Dale Smeltzer made a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss staff contract matters with administrators invited at 10:00PM and David Goodman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Dale Smeltzer moved to come out of executive session at 10:13 PM. Dan Raddock seconded. The vote was unanimous to come out of executive session.

David Goodman made a motion to accept retirement offers of all four people willing to take the offer and if no fifth person comes forward the Board will extend the offer to a person with 19 years of service. Dan Raddock seconded. The motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

Dale Smeltzer moves to go back into executive session to discuss student matters with members of the administration and Stephen Sands seconded. The motion passed unanimously with no abstentions at 10:14 PM.

Stephen Sands made a motion to come out of executive session at 10:35 PM and David Goodman seconded. The motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

Dale Smeltzer made a motion to accept a student's request to remain at Harwood to complete his senior year. Stephen Sands seconded. The vote was as follows. Stephen Sands, David

Goodman, Dale Smeltzer, Deb Hunter and Chris Koliba voted in favor and Dan Raddock abstained. The final vote was 23 in favor to 4 abstaining votes.

David Goodman moved to adjourn at 10:39 PM and Stephen Sands seconded. The motion passed unanimously with no abstentions and the meeting adjourned.

The next Board of Directors meeting is 22 January 2014 at 6:00PM.