

**Harwood Union Board of Directors Meeting  
22 January 2014  
Harwood Library  
6 PM**

**Unapproved minutes**

**Attendance**

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

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

**Staff:** Michelle Baker, Director of Finance; Ray Daigle, Director of Facilities

**Public:** RJ Hommel, Waterbury Center; Ethan Carr, Moretown; Michael Carr, Moretown; Melinda Carr, Moretown; Maureen McCracken, Waterbury; Carmel Kelley, Waterbury Center; Laura Caffry, Waitsfield; Rosemarie White, Warren; Rachel Goff, Valley Reporter; Cathy Stapinski, MRV-TV camera operator; 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 18 December 2013 meeting minutes as written. Stephen Sands seconded and the motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

**Citizens' Request to Address the Board:** Deb Hunter invited the public to address the Board and informed all present that since the subject of the 9<sup>th</sup> grade redesign was last discussed at the December meeting no action had been taken nor would be taken at the current meeting and that everyone needed to work together for the best of the school. Discussion about the 9<sup>th</sup> grade community redesign process followed.

**Finance Committee:** Stephen Sands informed the Board that the FY 2015 budget draft #4 has a final amount of \$13,547,626 which is an increase of 4.1%. Stephen Sands made a motion to move forward with the budget number of \$13,547,626 which represents a 4.1% increase. David Goodman seconded. The motion passed unanimously with no abstentions. The Board discussed crafting a message to be put out to the public regarding the FY 2015 budget. Stephen Sands explained that a special article needs to be put forward to connect the two new wells to the school. The school needs to get funding and forgiveness to meet state requirements at a maximum of \$425,000. Deb Hunter asked what would happen if the water system was not funded by the voters. Ray Daigle answered that if it was not funded the school would need to fund it out right. Stephen Sands made a motion to approve the Resolution Certificate and further resolved and that the following proposition be approved for such purposes as a special article to be voted on at Town Meeting. "Shall Harwood Union High School District No. 19 authorize school building water supply system improvements in an amount not to exceed \$425,000, subject

to reduction in available grants-in-aid, loan forgiveness and other financial assistance, to be financed over a term not to exceed 20 years?" Chris Koliba seconded. The motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

Stephen Sands informed the board that he and Michelle Baker had discussed the tuition rate for FY 2015. Michelle Baker explained that the tuition rate is established using a formula set by the state. The current tuition rate is \$12,800 and the rate for FY 2015 would be \$14,500. Dale Smeltzer made a motion to set the new tuition rate at \$14,500. Chris Koliba seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with no abstentions. Stephen Sands next informed the Board that Michelle Baker had determined that instead of leasing a new Drivers Ed vehicle the school should finance the vehicle. There are two bids for financing, one at 2.25% and one at 1.85% for 3 years. Michelle Baker suggests the 3 year loan at 1.85%. Stephen Sands moved to have the Board approve the 3 year loan at 1.85% and Dan Raddock seconded. The motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

Dale Smeltzer moved to approve Board Warrants 48 and 51. Stephen Sands seconded. The motion passed with no abstentions.

### **Board Warrants**

#### **FY 2013-2014**

48	01/08/14	Accounts Payable	\$ 311,946.24
51	01/22/14	Accounts Payable	\$ 276,423.01
<b>Total Board Warrants</b>			<b>\$ 588,369.25</b>

**Policy Committee:** Dale Smeltzer informed the Board that the next Policy Committee meeting is 13 February 2014. She asked Board members to review the revised policy packet #4 and send any comments to her. There are two new policies that should be on the agenda for the February Board meeting. David Goodman shared with Lisa Atwood that some students asked where the weighted grading is at the moment. Lisa Atwood responded that there is an H1 proposal for the Latin Model of grading and that students support the Latin Model.

**WWSU Executive Committee:** Brigid Scheffert shared with the Board that she had co written a letter to Governor Shumlin about redistricting and was considering a VPR piece on the subject. She asked that the Board please read the legislative update reports.

**New Business:** Lisa Atwood notified the Board that a date needed to be set for a Rowland Fellows presentation to the Board by Sarah Ibson and Ellen Berrings. Discussion about setting a date followed. It was suggested they make their presentation at either the March or April meetings.

**Co-principal's report:** Chris Koliba asked about the focus groups at the school. Lisa Atwood informed the Board that there are six focus groups within the Harwood staff and that each has a

facilitator and representative. The six focus groups are scheduling, MTSS, technology, innovations in education, school climate and TA

**Other topics:** Deb Hunter opened discussion about communicating the school budget to the public for Town Meeting Day. David Goodman reminded the Board that last year the school administration provided information about the school to communicate to the public at budget time. He suggested that this year the Board should again share important information with the public such as savings in hiring, strategic investments and the technology update. There was discussion about other information and successes within the school such as the Energy Efficiency award and admittance into the League of Innovative Schools that could be communicated to the public.

The date of the annual meeting is set for 22 February 2014 at 10 AM. Chris Koliba moved to approve the Annual Meeting Warning for this date. Dale Smeltzer seconded and the motion passed unanimously with abstentions.

Dale Smeltzer moved to adjourn and David Goodman seconded. The motion passed unanimously with no abstentions and the meeting adjourned at 8:44 PM.

The next full Board meeting is 19 February 2014 at 6 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lara Seaberg