

Harwood Union Board of Directors Meeting
6:00 PM Harwood School Library
16 October 2013

Unapproved Minutes

In attendance:

Board: Deb Hunter, Chair; Chris Koliba, Vice Chair; Stephen Sands; Dale Smeltzer; David Goodman; Dan Raddock (Left at 9PM)

Administration: Brigid Scheffert, Superintendent; Amy Rex, Co-Principal; Lisa Atwood, Co-Principal (Arrived at 7:10PM)

Staff: Ray Daigle

Public: Rosemarie White, Warren; Kristin Fountain, Waterbury Record, Tim Seniff, Warren; David Charns, WPTZ; Cathy Stapinski, Channel 45 camera operator; David Hoyes, Fox 44; Tyson Foster, Fox 44; Keith McGilvery, WCAX-TV; Mark Clement, WCAX-TV; Katie Sexton, WCAX-TV/ Colchester High student; Allen Gilbert, ACLU-VT; Mary Nielsen, Waterbury Center; Jill Schwenderman, Waitsfield, Lara Seaberg, minute taker.

Call to order: Chair Deb Hunter called the meeting to order at 6:07 PM.

Approval of minutes of the 18 Sept 2013 meeting: Dale Smeltzer made a motion to approve the minutes with one correction which was seconded by Chris Koliba. The motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

Deb Hunter made a note the Board would be using a Consent Agenda.

Citizens' request to address the Board: Deb Hunter welcomed all present and inquired as to whether anyone present wanted to comment on a matter other than the proposed video policy. Those in attendance indicated that they wanted to comment on the video policy. Tim Seniff of Warren was the first to comment and he expressed that he viewed the cameras as a collective punishment for vandalism and that they eliminate trust. He considers them the wrong decision. Deb Hunter then indicated that she had intended to read the proposed video policy E14-L aloud prior to public comment and she proceeded to read the policy. Allen Gilbert of the VT ACLU recommended a written document by the administration stating why the cameras are needed and how can the problem be solved without cameras. He suggests a start and end date of no longer than one year and if the cameras do not solve the problem then to not use them again. He also recommends having the policy draft reviewed by an attorney. Next, Katie Sexton, a Colchester High School student addressed the Board shared that the cameras in her school did not bother her but that the strict security measures at the school are upsetting for herself and her friends. Rosemarie White of Warren expressed her opinion was that use of cameras are a good idea. She also shared her experience with cameras from working at a bank and suggested dual viewing for camera footage so the viewing is not abused. David Goodman shared a letter to the Board by

Ann Ordierno of Waitsfield. Ms. Ordierno supports Mr. Goodman's stance of internal cameras only being on after 4 PM.

Chair Deb Hunter then clarified to everyone that this is only a first reading of the policy and that the November Board meeting would also provide an opportunity for the public to comment on the proposed policy.

David Goodman proposed an edit to the policy draft and that internal cameras be used only after school hours. His motion was seconded by Chris Koliba, who indicated that he was seconding the motion for the purpose of continuing discussion. After discussion David Goodman proposed a one year trial period with inside cameras being off from 7:30 AM to 4PM. The vote was as follows David Goodman (6) in favor with Chris Koliba (3), Deb Hunter (4), Stephen Sands (4), Dan Raddock (4) and Dale Smeltzer (6) opposed. The proposal did not pass 6 to 21. Dale Smeltzer made a motion that the Video Surveillance Policy E14-L be advanced for adoption at the 20 November meeting after being reviewed by an attorney and if there are no substantive changes. The November 20 HU Board meeting will provide another opportunity for public comment. Stephen Sands seconded the motion. The vote was as follows. Dale Smeltzer (6), Deb Hunter (4), Stephen Sands (4), Dan Raddock (4) and Chris Koliba (3) in favor. David Goodman (6) was the opposing vote. The motion to warn the policy for adoption in November passed 21 to 6.

The Board took a brief break at 7:02 PM for the purpose of allowing visitors and members of the media who wished to leave the opportunity to do so. Lisa Atwood arrived at 7:10PM.

At 7:10 the Board continued its business with committee reports:

Finance committee: Stephen Sands shared that there would need to be more discussion at the November 6th Finance meeting about the water system and how to get water from the source to the school which may include discussion of a bond for the water system. It was expressed that it would be easier if all Board members were present at the 6 November Finance Committee meeting. He informed the board that there is one action item, the purchase/lease of a new vehicle for the drivers' education program. Mr. Sands made a motion to authorize Michelle Baker, WWSU Business Manager, to sign a loan, financed over three years, for \$12,500 for a 2013-14 Toyota Corolla for the purposes of Drivers Education. Dale Smeltzer seconded the motion. It passed unanimously with no abstentions. Mr. Sands explained that VEHI is the school's health care plan and that the school is grandfathered until 2015 to continue using it. Mr. Sands made a motion to authorize Chair Deb Hunter to sign the member participation and power of attorney for the VEHI medical and dental plan to maintain participation beyond 2014. Chris Koliba seconded the motion. It passed unanimously with no abstentions.

The next finance committee meetings will be 6 November at 5PM and 20 November at 5PM.

Policy committee: Dale Smeltzer shared that the committee has completed its work revising class size procedures and that in the second paragraph the month has been changed from October to November. Ms. Smeltzer also shared that there are two aspects of the International Trips procedure that have also been finalized regarding water activities and limited spaces on a trip. There will be discussion of WWSU Policy Packet #4 at the December, January and February

committee meetings and they will update all Board members on the progress. The next Policy Committee is 12 December at 7:45 AM.

Washington West Executive committee: Deb Hunter gave an update and shared that WWSU had a savings of \$331,000 in salaries due to the retirement incentive program offered to faculty/staff. She also informed the Board about the new math curriculum which Curriculum Director Sheila Rivers went into detail describing at the Executive Committee meeting which brings math topics to be covered into alignment with the Common Core standards.

Superintendent Brigid Scheffert informed the board that there will be two yearly meetings of the WWSU Executive committee together with the Harwood and Waterbury/Duxbury Boards for the purpose of making sure communication is clear around alignment of Middle School programs important for students' progression into high school at HU. Superintendent Scheffert also shared with the Board that eight hours of training for school board members are now mandated by the Vermont state government. To accommodate this requirement WWSU will offer two hours of training integrated into the January and March Full WWSU Board meetings as well as a 4 hour training webinar with a quiz to be developed by WWSU Business Manager Michelle Baker and Superintendent Scheffert. Superintendent Scheffert also shared that the WWSU Executive Board voted that the means by which WWSU central office assessments will be assessed to the towns is proposed to be amended from ADM to Equalized Pupil for the purposes of calculations. All town school budgets will see a savings with this new calculation, with the exception of the HU budget which will see a one time slight increase of approximately \$16,000.

Superintendent Scheffert next discussed proposed WWSU boundary adjustments. The state would like Granville and Hancock to be added to the WWSU. Superintendent Scheffert does not think this is financially good for Washington West as it would need to fund students who will not be attending WWSU schools. She will be engaged in further discussions in Montpelier regarding this and will keep all WWSU Boards informed on proceedings.

New Business: Stephen Sands moved to confirm the Board Warrants and Chris Koliba seconded the motion. It passed unanimously with no abstentions.

Board Warrants

FY 2013-2014

27	10/03/13	Accounts Payable	\$ 350,808.94
30	10/16/13	Accounts Payable	\$ 757,020.57
Total Board Warrants			\$ 1,107,829.51

A budget is being built for the 20 November Financial committee meeting. Questions can be submitted to Deb Hunter via email.

The December meetings are as follows, 4 December 2013 at 5PM for the full Board and 18 December 2013 at 5PM for finance committee and 6PM for the full Board.

Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Brigid Scheffert shared that there have been three viewings of HU camera footage for three incidents. The footage was reviewed by HU Co-principal Lisa Atwood. Two of the incidents took place in areas where there is no camera coverage. One incident in which the camera proved helpful gave the administration enough information to question a student. Ms. Scheffert presented Chris Koliba with a certificate for five years of service on the Harwood school Board. Superintendent Scheffert gave an update on the altercation at Thatcher Brook Elementary. She also informed the Board that Susie Daly will be replacing Russ Bielke on the Board as the Fayston representative for the remainder of the year until Town Meeting in March due to Russ Bielke's move to Duxbury. Superintendent Scheffert advised that the HU Board needed to craft a policy regarding the attendance of non-resident students at HU. To aid in this work she walked the Board through an informational work sheet about choices they need to make related to the attendance of non-resident students at HU under a variety of circumstances. Tuitioning was discussed and a draft policy will be developed for further review and discussion.

Dan Raddock left the meeting at 9:00PM.

Executive Session: Dale Smeltzer made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel with members of the administration. The motion was seconded by David Goodman and passed unanimously at 9:30 PM. At 9:50 PM Chris Koliba made a motion to come out of executive session. David Goodman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. With no action taken the Board came out of Executive Session and a motion to adjourn was made by Stephen Sands and seconded by Chris Koliba. The motion to adjourn passed unanimously, and the Board adjourned at 9:51PM.

The next Board of Directors meeting is 20 November 2013 at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Lara Seaberg
Minute taker