

Waitsfield Elementary Board of School Directors

May 16, 2016

Waitsfield School Library

Present: Eve Frankel, Christine Sullivan, Barclay Rappeport, Jonathan Goldhammer, Jeremy Gulley, Kaiya Korb

Meeting was called to order at 6:30pm.

Additions and Edits to Agenda: There were none.

Audience and Written Communications: There were none.

Educational Legislation & Political Activity Update: There was a final decision connected to the yield. Because special education funds were not all used this year, there was a surplus. The House was interested in applying it to this year with the Senate wanting to save a portion for next year. The yield is lower than anticipated, which will result in a change in taxes. The excess spending penalty was also decided for next year; a rough estimate indicates that the threshold will not be met for Waitsfield next year, but likely will be exceeded by other schools in our supervisory union.

Annual Board retreat plans: Retreat is set for June 20th, 2016 at 5pm.

F-32 Prevention of Bullying, Harassment & Hazing updated policy, warned for adoption: Discussion occurred regarding the name of the policy indicating 'prevention', when the majority of the policy is response and reporting. Kaiya noted that the prevention part of this is a great deal of our guidance and health curriculum. Kaiya offered a solution of a citation within the procedures that there is a broad response within each school indicating their responsibility for prevention/education. Jonathan Goldhammer moved to adopt the document as written, 2nd by Jeremy Gulley. Vote was 4 – 1 in favor.

Approve Board Orders: Jonathan Goldhammer moved to approve board voucher 1154 in amount of \$11049.49. Christine Sullivan 2nd. Unanimous approval.

Voucher 1147 in amount of 7696.05 was pre-approved by Jonathan. Jonathan Goldhammer moved to approve. Christine Sullivan 2nd. Unanimous approval.

Approve Meeting Minutes:

- April 11, 2016 Meeting Minutes – Christine Sullivan moved to approve, Eve Frankel 2nd, unanimous approval.
- May 4, 2016 Special Meeting Minutes – Eve Frankel moved to approve, Jonathan Goldhammer 2nd, unanimous approval.

Hiring Health Teacher: This item held to the end of the meeting, after a brief executive session.

Financial Report: There is an anticipated fund balance projection of \$38,024. We have paid back the debt that was incurred in 2013. Revenue was much less than expected, although the addition of a tuition-ed student has added to the revenue. There is a \$12,000 contingency in the budget which has not been spent. The conversation at the time these funds were set aside was to return any left funds to the taxpayers. The timeline is such that the funds would be audited in the 2016 audit and voted on in 2017 (Town Meeting) as to the distribution possibility of these funds.

The special revenue fund includes the Maintenance Reserve fund with a current balance of \$7159. There is a feed/garden account that can be spent and used. Kaiya has suggested that the Class of 2014 and 2015 balances roll into the 2016 Class.

Kaiya suggested spending \$4000 roughly from the Waitsfield education fund reimbursement to purchase the Vex Robotics needed for the science program.

Food Service Report: There will be a change in the staff who will be serving lunch at WES next year which may impact the costs for next year.

Principal's Report: Given the anticipated fund balance, Kaiya queried if the board would approve completing some of the work which was removed from next year's budget in order to make the spending threshold target set by the state. Specifically, duct work cleaning, replacing doors from Liz Belknap's classroom to the south end of the building and painting of the library and gym (with the gym being of greater priority). Work planned to occur over the summer is having the concrete pads removed, which will minimize the frost heave related problems, and digital control upgrade (phase 1) of the HVAC system. The board all agreed that having any of the work that was delayed completed prior to the end of this fiscal year and using our anticipated fund balance would be an important step in maintaining the school.

Schedules have been made for next year, resulting in all support staff and services having been scheduled. It is anticipated that we will need slightly less para-professional services.

Preschool has 20 students who are eligible for our 4 year old program. Of those 20, 17 will be attending WES and 2 of the remaining will be using Act 166 Universal Preschool Funding. In our 3 year old class there are 10 children, 7 will be attending WES and 3 will be using Act 166 funding. The children using Act 166 will be receiving funding for other preschool providers. Our 4 year old capacity is full. We do have room in the 3 year old program for further students. Current staffing will remain with 2 staff in the 3 year old program and 3 in the 4 year old program.

Evaluations have been completed for all support staff.

Washington West Representative Report: Two forums have been held. Thatcher Brook and one at Harwood. On Monday the 23rd will be the last forum at 6:30pm.

Act 46 Study Group:

- Prepare for May 31 public forum – Kaiya proposed that the information shared at the forum on the 31st follow the format from the previous forums. The exception would be if the attendees are the same few from the public forums. The forum will be held at 6pm. The important information would be the explanation of the articles, which will be voted on and ensuing discussion.
- Draft letter to the community re: school board merger – draft letter was submitted and will be sent to the Valley Reporter for publication as well as the Waterbury Record this week.

Superintendent's Report:

Executive Session: Eve Frankel moved to enter executive session for a matter of employment. Jonathan Goldhammer 2nded. Unanimous acceptance. 8:10 Executive Session ended

Eve Frankel moved to approve the hiring of Allison Bataille, per the recommendation of the superintendent, for the position of .1 health teacher. Christine 2nded. Unanimous approval.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:11 by motion from Eve Frankel.