

# STRAFFORD BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, April 12, 2016  
5:30 PM

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The Newton School  
DRAFT Minutes

**In attendance:** Board Members: Glenn Wylie, Erik Goodling, Erik Reimanis, Hilary Linehan, Jeff Solsaa (arrived 6:02pm) Superintendent: Bruce Labs, Principal; Greg Bagnato, Community Members: Amanda Higgins, Denise Cote, Allan Wylie (arrived 5:50pm, departed 6:40pm) Todd Binzen (arrived 5:50 pm, departed 6:40pm), Jennifer Brown (arrived 5:55pm), Tim Briglin (arrived 5:55pm, departed 6:40pm), Shannon Varley (arrived 5:57pm, departed 6:40pm)

## Action Items:

Action item 8.0 Glenn will post a link to the TA site, regarding the designation contract, to the School Board website.

3.0 Greg will talk to the Safety Committee about protocols for lockdowns.

4.1 Glenn will give the February 26, 2016 minutes to Kristy.

5.2 Hilary will communicate with Barrie about creating survey summary data for the list serv.

5.2 Erik G will post the straw poll results to the list serv and send to Glenn to post to the website.

5.2 The Board will review all the comments of the survey.

7.1 Kristy will warn WRV 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6, ten days in advance, for adoption at the next meeting

8.1.1 Greg will distribute copies of the numbers formulated by Donna regarding tuitioning at the middle school level.

8.1.1 Greg will update the Board about the facility projects, well and cafeteria construction, at the May meeting.

8.4 Kristy will add the Thetford Academy Trustee Report back as a standing agenda item.

Action item 8.0 Glenn will post a link to the TA site, regarding the designation contract, to the School Board website.

8.4 Hilary will distribute the post-secondary rates report to the Board

11.2 Bruce will confer with the SU office about possible other Tuesday options for a standing meeting.

14.0 Erik G will confirm the meeting time for the Exploratory Committee.

## Decisions Made:

4.1 Minutes of February 26, 2016 approved unanimously.

4.2 Minutes of March 8, 2016 approved unanimously.

4.3 Minutes of March 29, 2016 approved unanimously with changes.

Action item 8.0 Glenn will post a link to the TA site, regarding the designation contract, to the School Board website.

11.1 Board approved sponsoring the trip offered by Jonathan Freeman for 2017 with the condition that the insurance to the point of departure from Strafford and from point of departure to Strafford be covered by the transportation carrier.

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1.0 Call to Order – Erik G called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

2.0 Adjustments to the Agenda

2.1 Appoint Time Keeper: Hilary appointed.

3.0 Public Comment

3.1 Amanda Higgins presented the Board with information about alternate options to a traditional lockdown. She recently went to a training on behalf of the Clara Martin Center. She asked the Board to review the information and look at the Newton School protocol. Greg reported that they have contacted the Orange County Sheriff and that the sheriff's office was not very

familiar with these protocols. Greg will talk to the Safety Committee about these protocols.

#### 4.0 Minutes

- 4.1 Action: Act to Approve the Minutes of February 26, 2016 (Special) Motion Hilary/Erik R to approve as written. Approved unanimously. Glenn will give minutes to Kristy.
- 4.2 Action: Act to Approve the Minutes of March 8, 2016 (Regular) Motion Erik G to approve as written. Approved unanimously
- 4.3 Action: Act to Approve the Minutes of March 29, 2016 (Special) Motion Hilary to approve with changes. Approved unanimously.

#### Action Items:

4.2 Glenn will distribute minutes from the February 26, 2016 meeting for approval at the next meeting. complete

4.3 Erik G will check with Kristy about wagon wheel meeting minutes. complete

7.4 Greg will contact Ed Eastman about serving as the Truant Officer. complete

7.8 Bruce will convey to Kristy that the Valley News is the Newspaper for Official Notices. complete

8.0 Hilary will find the designation contract with TA and make it available to the public. Complete. Glenn will post a link to the TA site to the School Board website.

9.1 Kristy will warn WRV 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 for adoption at the next meeting. Not warned 10 days in advance.

9.1.1 WRV1 Donna will clarify the language in the first sentence of the policy and distribute an updated policy to the Board. complete

9.1.3 WRV3 Donna will make changes and distribute revised policy to the board for adoption. complete

9.1.4 WRV5 Donna will make changes and distribute revised policy to the board for adoption. complete

9.1.5 WRV6 Donna will make changes and distribute revised policy to the board for adoption. complete

13.0 Jeff and Erik G will set up a meeting with Beth Cobb. Incomplete. Erik G will do this if it is still relevant

13.0 Board will host a public meeting regarding Act 46 on Tuesday, March 29, 2016, 7pm with a survey to follow. complete

13.0 Erik R will schedule with Barrett Hall. complete

13.0 Glenn will attend the senior lunch. complete

13.0 Greg set up child care. complete

13.0 Jason, Barrie and Hilary will work on the survey. complete

16.0 Kristy will warn a Wagon Wheel for April 7 in Stockbridge. Strafford will have their regular evening meeting on April 12. complete

17.0 Jeff will follow up with the Lewis family regarding their waiver for high school. complete

17.0 Hilary will follow up with families who have not yet indicated their high school preference. complete

#### 5.0 Act 46 Discussion

- 5.1 Report: Discussion of survey and poll results: 226 responses were received from the online survey. Hilary would like to have a conversation about what a “high degree of control of governance” means. The Board reviewed the survey results. The sense of the Board was that if the generous waiver process is lost that people would be more in favor of choice. The straw poll showed that 86 people were for option 1 (Alternative Structure) and the next most popular option was Option 5 (RED) with 10 people in favor. From the straw poll 59 people indicated they would like to keep the middle school and 15 people indicated they would like to move to K-6. 55 people indicated they would like to keep the designation with TA and 23 indicated they would like choice. The sense is that keeping middle school in Strafford is a priority. Glenn asked about the current state of option 1. Hilary reported that at the Wagon Wheel meeting Option 1 was discussed. Tunbridge felt that they did not have the information that they wanted. Tunbridge also did not want to leave Stockbridge alone in WRVSU. By the end of the meeting the suggestion was to form an exploratory committee about Option 1. Erik G reported that Chelsea is having their public forum on April 27. The April 25 deadline for forming study committees within the WRVSU has therefore been pushed back to the May Transition Board meeting. The exploratory committee (Strafford,

Thetford, Sharon, Stockbridge, Tunbridge) will meet on April 20. The committee needs to look at the costs of creating a new SU. If the group decides to go forward then a study grant could be applied for. If Strafford leaves the WRVSU the One Planet afterschool program funding would be lost because the funding grant is through the WRVSU.

5.2 Report: WRVSU Study Grant: Erik G recommended putting this decision off until the May 10, 2016 meeting. Amanda asked what would happen if Option 1 was no longer a viable option. Discussion about the possibility of losing the middle school. Middle school choice would cost Strafford more than the current system of having 7-8<sup>th</sup> grade in Newton. If we have no one to merge with in WRVSU because of our operating structure K-8 with designation then we could stay in WRVSU and do nothing. We would likely lose our small schools grant. Erik G asked what WRVSU would look like in this model – how would a stand-alone district function in the SU. Bruce, responding to a somewhat different question, responded that if Strafford or other districts leave WRVSU (and form a new SU) the costs for things such as Special Education would be split over smaller number of districts. Strafford currently has a number of expensive out of district placements. Denise Cote clarified that what she heard about Option 2 (Strafford forming a new district with Thetford) included Thetford running a ‘satellite’ middle school at Newton. Hilary clarified that the details of that choice have not been worked out and would likely include paying TA middle school tuition. Hilary said that she felt that the Board needs to explore Option 1 thoroughly before exploring all the facets of all the other plans. Shannon asked about Special Education. Hilary responded that the Special Education costs of the 10 towns are known and are then spread out among the 10 towns. Special Education costs are required to be done at the SU level. The Board reminded the community that they have previously been in a 5 town SU before the formation of WRVSU. Allan commented that a smaller group is more sensitive to changes. Hilary will communicate with Barrie about creating summary data for the list serv. Erik G will post the straw poll results to the list serv and send to Glenn to post to the website. The Board will review all the comments of the survey.

5.3 Action: Act to vote whether or not to join a WRVSU Study Grant: postponed

## 6.0 Correspondence

Hilary had correspondence regarding Act 46. She encouraged them to fill out the survey. Greg also received info from Nicole Ekegren, Bob Murray, Anne Peyton, Tanya Croke. The Board has all had conversations with numerous people around town. Jeff has spoken with Julie Acker about Thetford’s desire to work with Strafford. Glenn has received correspondence regarding waivers.

## 7.0 Public Hearing on Policy Adoption: policies were not warned for adoption, but all were amended as suggested.

7.1 Report: Financial Policies – WRVSU 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 – postponed to May 10 meeting.

7.2 Action: Act to approve Financial Policies

## 8.0 Reports:

8.1 Principal’s Report: Greg reported about the well problems and repairs. The cost for future repairs is estimated at \$8000. This summer there is also a large construction project in the Cafeteria. Greg would like to do both. He will update the Board in May after reviewing the financial projections. Greg reported on PI day. Greg is in the midst of hiring. In 3 weeks they have had only one teacher apply for the language position. Greg would like input from the Board about the languages position. Greg plans to speak with Tunbridge Principal. Jeff asked about the hiring committees. Greg has the final say after input from the committee. Greg invited the Board to be on the committees. The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders will perform Twelfth Night this week. Greg reported on a survey that he has done with Newton alumni and families about their preparation for High School. Greg spoke to some of the concerns that were raised in the survey. Next year there will be some elective choices in the Middle School. The goal is to have more things that students are really excited to do. Greg plans to

do a similar survey in January with 9<sup>th</sup> graders. Greg will distribute copies of the numbers formulated by Donna regarding tuitioning at the middle school level.

- 8.2 Business Manager's Report: no report
- 8.3 Superintendent's Report: Transition Board/Committee Updates: Executive Board meeting on Thursday. At the meeting there will be an update on the support staff. Bruce invited the Board to the Board training on April 26 prior to the Transition Board Meeting. They have hired a new principal in Rochester. At the Wagon Wheel meeting there was a presentation about a proposed Rochester Outdoor Program.
- 8.4 Thetford Academy Trustees' Report- Act 46 was a discussion topic. TA is doing a study about having a full international program. The outdoor program is continuing to evolve. TA is expecting a bump in enrollment for next year. The special education program is likely to be at capacity given the current special education configuration and staffing. They have a scheduling task force to look at the scheduling system. Bill Bugg distributed a report that cited the post-secondary education rates across Vermont. Hilary will distribute this report to the Board.

9.0 OWSU Future Meeting Dates

**OWSU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SCHEDULE**

April 14, 2016 @ 6:30

**SUPERVISORY TRANSITION BOARD MEETINGS**

April 26 @ 7:30 pm (Following Board training from 6-7:30)

10.0 Old Business: none.

11.0 New Business

- 11.1 School Sponsorship of 2017 trip to France and Germany with Jonathan Freeman. Board discussed how this was approved last year. Erik G reviewed the minutes from last year regarding the trips. Motion (Hilary) to sponsor the trip offered by Jonathan Freeman for 2017 with the condition that the insurance to the point of departure from Strafford and from point of departure to Strafford be covered by the transportation carrier. Passed unanimously. Greg will review the coverage with Jonathan Freeman to make sure that coverage is the same. Erik R will contact Diane White regarding the cultural committee.
- 11.2 Hilary would like to change the meeting week for the standing Board meeting to avoid multiple meetings in the week. Bruce will confer with the SU office about possible other Tuesday options.

12.0 Other Business: none.

13.0 Future Agenda Items

14.0 Future Strafford Board Meetings

May 10, 2016 @ 5:30 pm

Exploratory Committee April 20, 2016 7:00 pm in Sharon Erik G will confirm this meeting.

15.0 Executive Session

- 15.1 Erik G moved to enter executive session at 7.42
- 15.2 Exited executive session at 8.09
- 15.3 Renewal of High School waiver approved for the Jenisch family

- 15.4 Renewal of High School waiver approved for the Connelli family
- 15.5 Renewal of High School waiver approved for the Plottner family
- 15.6 Renewal of High School waiver approved for the Kendall family
- 15.7 Two renewals of High School waiver approved for the Kelley family
- 15.8 Two renewals of High School waiver approved for the Penfield family
- 15.9 Waiver approved for the Lewis family to attend TSA
- 15.10 Waiver approved for the Dennison family to attend Hanover High School

16.0 Adjourned at 8:20