

STRAFFORD BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, May 10, 2016

5:30 PM

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The Newton School

DRAFT MINUTES

In attendance: Board Members: Erik Goodling, Hilary Linehan, Glenn Wylie, Erik Reimanis (arrived 5:41 pm), Jeff Solsaa (arrived 5:57), Principal: Greg Bagnato, Superintendent: Bruce Labs, Community Members: Dori Wolfe, Steve Gagliardone- Sharon School Board (arrived 5:38pm), Charlie Buttrey- Thetford School Board (arrived 5:45pm), Newton Staff: Marie Robinson (departed 8:29pm), Denise Cote (departed 8:29pm)

Action Items:

6.0 Erik G will get a copy of the WNW letter to Glenn.

8.0 Board will review policies in preparation for a second reading at the next meeting. Policies include Look-alike weapons, Transportation: Bus Breakdown-Accident/Emergency Response, Board Relations with School Personnel, Wellness, and Financial (WRV4)

Decisions Made:

4.1 Minutes of April 12, 2016 approved as written.

5.2 Board voted to table the discussion of whether or not to join a WRVSU §706 Study Grant.

5.4 Board voted to join an Alternative Structure Exploratory Committee.

9.1.1 Board voted to complete all structural work scheduled for Summer 2016.

9.1.2 Calendar for 2016-2017 year was approved with the addition of a half day on April 6, 2017.

13.2 Reallocation of net metering credits was approved.

13.3 Board signed the Standing Order for Payroll.

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- 1.0 Call to Order- Erik G called the meeting to order at 5:34pm
- 2.0 Adjustments to the Agenda
- 2.1 Appoint Time Keeper
- 3.0 Public Comment- Dori Wolfe urged the Board to rewrite slightly the net metering arrangement. The savings would be slightly more. Net metering credits get applied to the District's bill and then the School District pays 90% of the value of the net metering credits to Strafford Energy. Right now the Main Building is assigned 47.47% and the Gym 7.21%. Dori recommends changing the net metering credits of the Main building to 54.28 % and the Gym to 8.1%.
- 4.0 Minutes
- 4.1 Action: Act to Approve the Minutes of April 12, 2016 (Regular) Motion (Hilary/Glenn) to approve the minutes as written. Unanimously approved.

Action Items:

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

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

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

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

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

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

7.1 Kristy will warn WRV 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6, ten days in advance, for adoption at the next meeting Not complete

8.1.1 Greg will distribute copies of the numbers formulated by Donna regarding tuitioning at the middle school level. Not complete

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

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

8.4 Hilary will distribute the post-secondary rates report to the Board. Not complete

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

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

5.0 Act 46 Discussion

Charlie Buttrey stated that tonight Thetford has a meeting to decide what Study Grant or Committee to enter. He reported on his observations from a recent Hartland School Board meeting. He is going to suggest to the Thetford board that they not vote tonight to join the Exploratory Committee until Hartland has decided which direction it is going to take. Erik G suggested that Charlie talk with the Windsor related SU because he believes they are looking at Alternative Structure. Steve G said that Sharon has decided to join the Exploratory Committee and be an advisory member of the 706 study grant. There was discussion of how the Exploratory Committee would be affected by having both Tunbridge and Hartland as members. Because they both operate preK-8 with choice, they might have to merge under the Alternative structure. Steve G pointed out that it is the decision of Tunbridge or Hartland whether they would want to merge. Discussion about geographically practicability. Erik G said that he believes that the towns that planned to meet on Wednesday (Exploratory Committee) should still plan to meet. Steve said that Tunbridge has been discussing this at their regular meeting. Bruce said Tunbridge has not yet voted. Greg said that he has recently met with area principals. He thinks that people are very interested in the costs of a new SU. Erik G believes that costs can be looked at closely by the consultant. Discussion about One Planet. Possible meeting with Thetford on May 24 at 6pm. Discussion about the 706 grant. If the Board follows the 706 study grant to the end it could mean merging. Bruce said that he has had a long conversation with Rebecca Holcombe. He has been told that it is highly unlikely that Strafford will be able to leave the SU. Erik G said that the Alternative Structure is written into Act 46. Glenn asked about the timeline for notification for an Exploratory grant. Hilary stated about a month. Bruce said that they are trying to get something in print by October. Jeff asked about the financial implications of doing nothing. Hilary responded that we would not get the tax incentives and we would lose the small schools grant. Discussion about the intent of Act 46. Erik G believes that merging or giving up our designation as part of a 706 study grant is not what the Town of Strafford wants. Hilary suggested that WRVSVU 706 Study committee study various options: k-6 and k-8. Erik G asked what Bruce meant by educational equity. Bruce responded that he believes that the intention of Act 46 equity goal was to merge districts with different perspectives to improve the educational quality and close the achievement gap. Greg said that standing alone in WRVSVU does not improve equity. Glenn asked about this. Greg responded that there is new SU strategic plan that is very thorough. A stand-alone district would not promote sharing. Greg stated that he believes that a new SU that is focused on elementary and middle school education could achieve gains with K-6 and K-8. Hilary thinks that Strafford is not likely to accept the outcome of the 706 committee. She believes that the alternative structure should be investigated. Denise Cote said that there has been a mandate handed to the board from the town to explore the alternative structure. Glenn asked about the different messages that are being communicated about the Alternative Structure. Steve G believes that Rebecca's intent in the first meeting was to help Rivendell. Hilary does not see a risk in going down the road of the Exploratory Committee. Erik G said that he does see potential benefits. Denise Cote said that a k-8 focused SU would be great.

- 5.1 Report: WRVSVU §706 Study Grant- Hilary said that as written, the current language of the committee's intent is to study mergers. Hilary said that because Strafford does not intend to merge, she hopes that the language could be changed to more open language. Steve G said that being an advisory member allowed them (Sharon) to do their due diligence to study this option. Hilary said that Stockbridge and Tunbridge would have to vote to join the committee as necessary members in order for the committee to be viable. Hilary asked if Strafford

could join after it starts. After it begins you can join but only as an advisory member. Bruce reported that currently the non-operating and preK-12 committees have formed in WRVSU.

- 5.2 Action: Act to vote whether or not to join a WRVSU §706 Study Grant. Motion (Erik R/Glenn) to table the issue. Yea 3 (Erik R, Erik G, Glenn), Nay 2 (Jeff, Hilary)
 - 5.3 Report: Alternative Structure Exploratory Committee
 - 5.4 Action: Act to vote to join an Alternative Structure Exploratory Committee Motion (Hilary/Glenn) to join the exploratory committee. Unanimously approved.
- 6.0 Correspondence - Hilary and Erik G received a letter from the WNW educational association. The letter expressed objection to the privatization of busing and food service in the SU. Bruce stated that contracts have gone to all the current food service employees. A contract with Butlers has not been signed. Butler has agreed to buy the buses and to employ all the drivers. Erik G said that bus service needs to be done at the SU level at a uniform level. Erik G will get a copy of the letter to Glenn. Erik R has received a waiver request to be discussed in executive session. Danette Harris and Joey Hawkins co-authored a characteristically well-written letter to the board encouraging the board to keep the middle school at Newton.
- 7.0 Public Hearing on Policy Adoption (**Tabled**)
- 7.1 Report: Financial Policies – WRVSU 1, 2, 3, 5, 6
 - 7.2 Action: Act to approve Financial Policies
- 8.0 Policy Review – 1st reading Board will review policies in preparation for a second reading at the next meeting
- 8.1 Report: Look-alike weapons Policy-
 - 8.2 Report: Transportation: Bus Breakdown-Accident/Emergency Response Policy- formulated based on an incident in Chelsea. Bruce said that different Boards are discussing the policy. There is dispute about whether, in the event of an emergency, 911 “may” be called or “shall” be called.
 - 8.3 Report: Board Relations with School Personnel Policy
 - 8.4 Report: Wellness Policy- Bruce reported that the area of controversy is in section B.3 regarding recess and whether it can be withheld as a consequence for misbehavior. Hilary suggested that B.2 remove the “outside of the school day”.
 - 8.5 Report: Financial Polices (WRV4)
- 9.0 Reports:
- 9.1 Principal
 - 9.1.1 Report: Discussion of allocation of funds to meet end of year building expenses. Greg reported on the Structural Building Project. The third phase of Priority 1 projects is scheduled for this summer. The project includes placing steel beams in the ceiling of the cafeteria. If all the summer work is done, in addition to the work that was done this year on the elevator, well project, and grease trap, the facilities budget would be over by \$10,000. There is \$9000 in the capital reserve balance. Donna has estimated that the budget for FY 15-16 will have a \$50,000 surplus. Traditionally, surplus has gone to the tuition reserve fund. Hilary made the recommendation to do the structural work. Motion (Erik G) to complete all structural work scheduled for Summer 2016. Yea 4 (Erik G, Erik R, Glenn, Hilary), Nay 1 (Jeff)
 - 9.1.2 Report: Approval of Newton School Calendar- Motion (Erik G) to approve the calendar as proposed with the addition of a half day on April 6, 2017.
 - 9.1.3 Other: Graduation has been set for June 9th at 7pm. End of the year assembly June 10 at 8:15 am. May is a month of testing- SBAC, NECAP and Star 360. Greg offered a presentation of the SBAC for the Board. Greg reported that the testing is different than previous years. It is a CAT- a computer adaptive test. K-6 music concert Wed 5/11. Greg is working on hiring. Facility manager interviews are done. Greg has a Spanish teacher interview tomorrow and will be joined by the Tunbridge principal.

Food Service interviews are ongoing. The Science teacher position does not have a lot of applicants.

- 9.1.4 Hiring- Greg would like to have permission to hire a school counselor, provided that both he and the Superintendent agree on the candidate. Permission granted.

9.2 Superintendent

9.2.1 Report: Transition Board/Committee Updates

9.2.2 Other: Working on hiring an HR person at the SU. There are two candidates for the Extended Curriculum position. There are two finalists for the tech position.

9.2.3 Bruce reported on the possibility of moving the standing Strafford meeting to a different day. Hilary suggested delaying the decision until the WRVSU meetings are set this summer.

10.0 OWSU Future Meeting Dates

OWSU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

May 12, 2016 @ 6:30- cancelled

TRANSITION BOARD MEETINGS

May 31 @ 6:00 pm – Whitcomb Jr/Sr High School

LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

May 23 @ 6:00pm at the SU office

11.0 Old Business – None.

12.0 New Business

12.1 Report: Reallocation of Net Metering Credits

12.2 Action: Act to vote on reallocation of net metering credits- Motion (Hilary) to accept the reallocation of net metering credits. Yea 4 (Erik G, Erik R, Hilary, Glenn), Jeff abstained

12.3 Director's Order- Board signed the Standing Order for Payroll

13.0 Thetford Academy Trustee Report- There is a new board member, and there is a projected increase in enrollment for next year. TA is concerned about Hartland losing choice or if any other schools change their choice options. A house will be renovated for Outdoor Education. TA is interested in improving their relationship with the Newton School and to encourage more Strafford students to attend TA.

14.0 Other Business - Erik G attended a Board training workshop about chain of command in Board feedback. Feedback should be funneled through the Board Chair. Chain is as follows- Teacher, Principal, Superintendent, Board.

15.0 Future Agenda Items

15.1 Strafford Board meeting schedule- July after WRVSU restructuring

16.0 Future Strafford Board Meetings

June 14, 2016 @ 5:30 pm

17.0 Executive session – entered at 8.39 to discuss student academic records.

17.1 Exited at 8.52

17.2 No action taken.

18.0 Adjourn (*Time 8:54 PM*)