

STRAFFORD BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

**Regular Meeting
Wednesday, June 22, 2016
5:30 PM**

**@
The Newton School
APPROVED Minutes**

Newton School Mission Statement

“Our mission is to develop each child’s potential for academic success, engagement and overall well being. Through this process, we will enrich each child’s education with community involvement, collaboration and outreach.”

In Attendance:

Board Members: Erik Reimanis, Erik Goodling, Glenn Wylie, Jeff Solsaa, (arrived 5:54), Superintendent: Bruce Labs, Principal: Greg Bagnato, Newton Staff: Denise Cote, Diane White, Community Member: Jessica Tidman, Recording Secretary: Becky Proulx

Action Items:

- 8.0 Kristy will warn policies ready for adoption 10 days in advance of the next meeting.
- 9.2.1 Bruce will bring it up contracts for staff who work at multiple schools at the Transition Board meeting.
- 16.0 Erik G will work with Don Shaw to set a meeting day and time.

Decisions Made:

- 4.2 Minutes of May 10, 2016 approved as written.
- 4.3 Minutes of May 21, 2016 approved as written.
- 4.3 Minutes of May 24, 2016 approved as written.
- 7.2 WRVSU 1- Bids, Quotations, and Procurement Policy was approved.
- 7.3 WRVSU 2- Capitalization of Assets Policy was approved.
- 7.4 WRVSU 3- Disposition of Assets Policy was approved.
- 7.5 WRVSU 5- Employee Conflict of Interest Policy was approved.
- 7.6 WRVSU 6- Grant Expenditures Policy was approved.
- 9.1.2 Board approved the FY17 Arbitrage/Loan Documents.
- 9.1.3 Board approved the amended Section 125 Plan with Future Planning.
- 9.2.2 Board asked the superintendent to request a waiver to change the February vacation to align with area high schools.
- 12.2 Board approved the Science, Music, and Spanish Hires.

-
- 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- none
 - 4.0 Minutes
 - 4.1 Action: Act to Approve the Minutes of May 10, 2016 (Regular) Motion (Erik R/Glenn) to approve the minutes of May 10, 2016 as written. Approved unanimously.
 - 4.2 Action: Act to Approve the Minutes of May 21, 2016 (Special) Motion (Erik R/Glenn) to approve the minutes of May 21, 2016 as written. Approved unanimously.
 - 4.3 Action: Act to Approve the Minutes of May 24, 2016 (Special) Motion (Glenn/Erik R) to approve the minutes of May 24, 2016 as written. Approved unanimously.

Action Items:

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

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)

Following up on a previous action item-Greg reported on the cost of tuitioning the middle school students. Current middle school expenses \$234,000 at Newton. Tuition to TA \$432,000 for 24 students. Currently there are 32 7/8 students next year. Greg distributed Donna's budget to the Board tuitioning middle school students would represent a 9.8% increase on the budget.

5.0 Act 46 Discussion

Report: WRVSU §706 Study Grant – Glenn reported that the study committee is waiting for Strafford's vote. Glenn reported that the tenor of the room from a previous meeting was that it would be good if everyone participated. Tunbridge is participating because Act 46 cannot force anyone to change their current configuration so they could always be a free-floating district. Erik G asked why we would join the grant. Glenn responded that it would be to look at similar structures to the alternative structure within the SU. Erik G asked about the status of the alternative structure grant. Bruce said that it is moving slowly – the grant application has been with the State for several weeks. The other grants he has written have been approved in a few days. Discussion about the difference between a 706 committee and an exploratory committee. Glenn reported that when you enter a 706 grant no town is 'necessary' or 'advisable'. The advisory and necessary distinction is determined during the study grant process. Glenn said that that two reasons to join might be that there is nothing to lose and to do due diligence; he also said that according to the rules as currently understood, there were no real 'down-sides': the worst thing that could happen would be to compel the Board to have a town-wide vote. Jessica asked about the timeline of the grant. Bruce responded that a plan would need to be created by November in time for budgeting for a vote at Town Meeting in March. Jeff cautioned the Board against being part of a committee that the Board cannot commit to. He pointed out that if we are part of two study committees and end up pulling out of one, that would leave other towns 'hanging' – that is, trying to figure out what to do without our town. Discussion about the 706 study grant. Jessica asked if the Board was waiting on information about the Alternative Structure. The Alternative Structure grant has been applied for and the AOE has had the application for 5-6 weeks. Erik G read the language for the 706 motion. It is as follows:

“Study Committee to consider a unified district operating specific grades and tuitioning others. I move that we join together with other school districts within the White River Valley Supervisory Union to study the advisability of forming a union school district that will operate schools in elementary grades and tuition students in the high school years. We understand that to create a unified district, we will need to agree on how students will be educated in grades 7-8 (whether through operating those grades or tuitioning students to other schools) and we will need one set of policies relative to tuitioning of students (choice or designation). We authorize our board chair to work with other involved boards and the Superintendent to determine the make-up of the study committee and a budget to support the work in accordance with provisions of law and to seek a financial grant from the Agency of Education to support the work of the committee. This motion does not authorize the expenditure of more than the amount of the AOE grant. The board will provide final approval to proceed with the committee when all districts are identified and when it appoints members to the committee.”

Bruce stated that the next step after voting would be to look at membership and representation for the committee based on Equalized Pupil numbers. Discussion about the language of the motion. The language of the motion was specific to the formation of a single unified district. Board discussed possible amendments to the motion as written. Jeff suggested voting on it as written and not approving it. Board amended to language to include one or more districts. Glenn made a motion with the amended language.

Action: Act to vote whether or not to join a WRVSU §706 Study Grant- I (Glenn/Erik R) move that we join together with other school districts within the White River Valley Supervisory Union to study the advisability of forming one or more school districts that will operate schools in either k-6 or k-8 grades and tuition students in the higher grades. We understand that to create these potential districts, we will need to agree on how students will be educated in grades 7-8 (whether through operating those grades or tuitioning students to

other schools) and we will need policies relative to tuitioning of students (choice or designation). We authorize our board chair to work with other involved boards and the Superintendent to determine the makeup of the study committee and a budget to support the work in accordance with provisions of law and to seek a financial grant from the Agency of Education to support the work of the committee. This motion does not authorize the expenditure of more than the amount of the AOE grant. The board will provide final approval to proceed with the committee when all districts are identified and when it appoints members to the committee. Erik G abstained to prevent a tie. Yeah votes: 2 (Glenn and Erik R) Nay vote: 1 (Jeff)

6.0 Correspondence - Erik G has correspondence for executive session.

7.0 Public Hearing on Policy Adoption

7.1 Report: Financial Policies – WRVSU 1, 2, 3, 5, 6

7.2 Action: Act to approve Financial Policies. Motion (Glenn/Erik R) to approve WRVSU 1- Bids, Quotations, and Procurement Policy. Passed unanimously

7.3 Motion (Glenn/Erik R) to approve WRVSU 2- Capitalization of Assets Policy. Passed unanimously.

7.4 Motion (Glenn/Erik R) to approve WRVSU 3- Disposition of Assets Policy. Passed unanimously.

7.5 Motion (Glenn/Erik R) to approve WRVSU 5- Employee Conflict of Interest Policy. Passed unanimously.

7.6 Motion (Jeff/Erik R) to approve WRVSU 6- Grant Expenditures Policy. Passed unanimously.

8.0 Policy Review – 2nd reading- Board completed a second reading of the following policies. Kristy will warn policies 10 days in advance of the next meeting.

8.1 Report: Look-alike weapons Policy

8.2 Report: Transportation: Bus Breakdown-Accident/Emergency Response Policy- Greg asked that the words “by phone” be omitted from the sentence “school official shall be notified by phone by the driver”. He communicates with drivers by radio.

8.3 Report: Board Relations with School Personnel Policy

8.4 Report: Wellness Policy- Discussion about B3 and recess.

8.5 Report: Financial Polices (WRV4) Greg would like to get faculty feedback before the Board approves the form.

9.0 Reports:

9.1 Business Manager Report

9.1.1 Report: Current Financial Report- Bruce presented the Business Manager Report. He needs signatures for the Arbitrage/Loan documents.

9.1.2 Report: FY17 Arbitrage/Loan Documents for review/Authorization. Motion (Jeff/ Erik R) to approve the Arbitrage/Loan Documents. Passed unanimously.

9.1.3 Report: Approve amended Section 125 Plan with Future Planning. Motion (Erik R/Glenn) to approve the amended Section 125 Plan with Future Planning. Approved unanimously.

9.2 Principal

9.2.1 Report: Graduation went well. Hiring is complete. End of Year assembly, field day and retirement recognition dinner went well. Staff have been working on student work and testing. Greg reported on the SBAC results. Newton and Tunbridge are sharing a Spanish teacher. The combined hours would create a .8FTE position. Greg would like the Board to create a policy to cover situations when staff are shared between schools. Erik G suggested that this was a Transition Board discussion. Bruce will bring it up at the Transition Board meeting.

9.2.2 Greg requested that Bruce request a waiver from the Secretary of Education for February Vacation so that it will align with the area high schools. Motion (Erik

R/Jeff) to ask the superintendent request a waiver to change the February vacation to align with area high schools. Passed unanimously.

9.2.3 Outdoor education- Hulbert Outdoor Center staff may come to school to work with middle schoolers at the beginning of the year and 8th graders may go for 2 nights instead of one. There is a new outdoor school in Thetford Center Raven's Wood Outdoor School. It will start up this school year. There may be parents who are interested in sending their children there once per week. Greg met with the director yesterday. If a student enrolls they may have to be homeschooled to attend.

9.2.4 Other- Building project is going as planned.

9.3 Superintendent

9.3.1 Report: Transition Board/Committee Updates

9.3.2 Other: Study grant committees have begun for the high school and non-operating committees. The Strategic Plan is complete it will be given out in draft soon. Negotiations committee was held last night. Next week they meet with Support Staff.

10.0 OWSU Future Meeting Dates

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

TRANSITION BOARD MEETINGS

June 27 @ 6:00 pm – Royalton School

11.0 Old Business

12.0 New Business

12.1 Report: Schedule Board Retreat for July and set Agenda. Erik G will put out an email to schedule the retreat. Possible agenda items: Act 46, Goals for next year.

12.2 Other: Motion to approve the Science, Music, and Spanish Hires. Approved unanimously.

13.0 Thetford Academy Trustee Report- TA meeting tomorrow night. Hilary cannot attend. Erik G will attend.

14.0 Other Business

15.0 Future Agenda Items

16.0 Future Strafford Board Meetings- Erik G will check in with Don Shaw. Bruce would prefer Tues or Wed. 1st Tuesday, 2nd Tuesday or the 3rd Wednesday are open.
TBD @ 5:30 pm

17.0 Executive Session:

17.1 Entered at 7.54 to discuss student records. Superintendent and Jessica Tidman asked to join.
Exited at 8.01

17.2 Motion to approve (Glenn/Erik R) Tidman/Scull waiver to attend KUA. Unanimously approved.

17.3 Entered at 8.12 to discuss the appointment or employment or evaluation of a public officer or employee. Superintendent and Greg asked to join.

17.4 Exited at 8.30

17.5 Motion to accept the raise request of current employee (Erik R), seconded by Jeff.
Unanimously disapproved.

18.0 Adjourn at 8.32