

DRAFT Minutes
April 11, 2019

Date: April 11, 2019
Time: 6:00 pm
Place: Waits River Valley School

Present:

Board Members: Stacy Emerson, Joe Nolin, Sarah Nolin, Suzanne Kingsbury

OESU: Emily Knisley, Superintendent

WRVS: None

Guests: Chris Preston

Next Meeting: May 9, 2019

Call to Order: The Board Chair called the meeting to order at 6:07 PM.

Board Business:

Agenda Review: J. Nolin proposed to take Board Reorganization off the Agenda. Board Members agreed it would be better to reorganize after the Annual Budget Meeting. Joe Nolin will remain Chair through the Annual Meeting, and Board Reorganization will be postponed until the next regular meeting.

Approve Minutes 2/18/19: Motion was made and seconded (Emerson/Kingsbury): Approved 4-0.

Approve Minutes 3/18/19: Motion was made and seconded (Emerson/Kingsbury): Approved 4-0.

Correspondence: None

Contracts: Long-term substitute contract was reviewed to cover paternity leave: Approved 4-0.

Board Orders: Tabled because no quorum.

Public Comments:

C. Preston discussed long-term contract procedures and how teachers should be selected for those positions. Discussion about FMLA requirements and what constitutes "school year." For example, if a staff member is absent mid-year, it should be counted as a half-year. Superintendent Emily Knisley said there is specific guidance, including a FMLA "restart," as well as restrictions. She will provide clarification to Board Members.

C. Preston also said he would like to hear more about the Board's plan for long-term Strategic Planning.

Treasurer's Report

Discussion about advertising for a new Treasurer to manage funds. OESU will put an advertisement in Journal Opinion (JO).

Vision Statement Development/Strategic Plan Report

J. Nolin talked to Sue Holson at VSBA about developing a plan for a Strategic Vision for WRVS. Sue's opinion was there is much going on at OESU with Act 46 changes, and neither Strategic plan nor Vision Statement has been created at the Supervisory Union level. Emilie Knisely said OESU was working on both. Sue advised WRVS to wait for the implementation of OESU's new plan. Board Members agreed to wait until after Annual Budget Meeting to address. J. Nolin will provide Board Members with more information from VSBA on building a strategic plan and add to agenda for another regular Board meeting.

Emerson discussed Tuition Fees and reported that she had called VSBA and Vermont Agency of Education to get clarification about how tuition rates are developed. Although it is not mandatory to use a form to calculate tuition rates, some schools do. Emerson plans to continue researching how rates paid by WRVS for high school students are calculated.

Teacher Negotiations

J. Nolin reported the Negotiations Committee and WRVS teachers have met to discuss wording on teacher contracts, but said the negotiations only cover one year. New negotiations will be brought to school board for approval. Special Ed and Support Staff contracts were not included in negotiations, as they are negotiated through OESU. State-wide healthcare bargaining will begin next year, and all other negotiations moving to OESU level. The healthcare bargaining will result in an 11.9 percent overall increase in cost, to be shared by schools and teachers.

Act 46 Update

Emilie Knisley discussed new composition of OESU. A new district was created within Orange East Supervisory Union. It is made up of Oxbow, Bradford, and Newbury and will be called Oxbow Unified Union School District. The Transitional Board has met twice and will have new elections in May.

Principal's Report

The Principal's Report was presented to Board Members (attached). Discussion about Corinth and Topsham Budget Information Nights prior to the Annual School Board Budget Meeting. WRVS Board Members and Principal will be present at these meetings to answer questions about the budget for the new year.

Wrap-Up/Next Meeting Agenda Items

Teacher Negotiations
Vision Statement/Strategic Plan
Board Reorganization
Principal's Report

Public Comment

C. Preston recommended we keep the Strategic Plan on the agenda for next meeting. The Board agreed to keep it on the Agenda for May 9, 2019.

Executive Session

Motion was made and seconded to go into Executive Session for Personnel Matter – Contracts (Kingsbury/Emerson). Approved 4-0.

Board moved into Executive Session at 6:55 pm.

Board Left Executive Session at 7:00 pm.

Motion was made to approve a 3-year contract term for Principal (Jul 1, 2019-Jul 30, 2022) (Emerson/Kingsbury). Approved 4-0, contract was approved as presented.

Motion to Adjourn (Emerson/Kingsbury). Approved 4-0.

S. Nolin