

**Washington West Supervisory Union Executive Committee  
&  
Act 46 Study Committee  
Approved Meeting Minutes for 11 November 2015  
Harwood Library**

**Attendance**

**WWEC Members:** Doug Mosle (Fayston), Rosemarie White (Harwood), Garrett MacCurtain (Harwood), Kate O'Neill (Moretown), Christine Sullivan (alternate for Waitsfield), Alex Thomsen (Waterbury-Duxbury), Rob Rosen (Warren)

**Act 46 Study Committee Members:** Jill Ellis (Fayston), Rosemarie White (HU ex-officio), Garrett MacCurtain (HU ex-officio), Gabe Gilman (Moretown), Christine Sullivan (Waitsfield), Alycia Biondo (alternate for Warren), Alex Thomsen (W-D for Waterbury), Sam Jackson (W-D for Duxbury)

**WWSU Administration:** Brigid Nease, Superintendent; Michelle Baker, WWSU Director of Finance and Operations; Donarae Dawson, WWSU Director of Special Education

**Other Board Members:** Alycia Biondo (alternate for Warren)

**Other:** Jeff Maher (Act 46 consultant), Walter Nardelli (Act 46 consultant), MRV-TV camera operator, Tracy Brannstrom (Valley Reporter), Lara Seaberg (minute taker)

**Call to Order:** Gabe Gilman, chair of the Study Committee and Garrett MacCurtain, vice chair of the WWEC called the respective meetings to order at 5:43 PM.

**Confirming Agenda:** Brigid Nease noted that WWEC would need an Executive Session for a matter of personnel contract

**Approval of Minutes of 28 Oct 2015:**

**Study Committee Action:** Jill Ellis moved and Christine Sullivan seconded to approve the 28 Oct 2015 minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

**WWEC Action:** Kate O'Neill made a motion to approve the 28 Oct 2015 minutes. Alex Thomsen seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion:** Act 46 Consultants Jeff Maher and Walter Nardelli shared information regarding the Act 46 vote. Discussion concerning the Act 46 vote and district representation followed. More information will come at the next meeting regarding different Act 46 vote questions and district representation. Brigid Nease informed the committees that she and Michelle Baker had recently participated in webinar training for anticipated tax rates. The numbers will be available at the next meeting. Superintendent Nease shared with the committees that the WWSU website had gone live with an Act 46 *Call for Comment* page where the public can send questions and comments to the Act 46 Study Committee. Brigid Nease's blog will be going out on the SU website, Front Porch Forum and Twitter. Superintendent Nease informed the committees that the AOE put out guidance regarding proportional representation.

**Reports re Act 46 feedback from Local Boards:** Gabe Gilman asked members to share any feedback from their local boards.

Fayston- Doug Mosle shared that the Fayston Board had not met since the last study committee meeting.

Warren- Rob Rosen stated that the Warren Board had not yet met since the last meeting.

Harwood- The Harwood Board had not yet met since the 28 Oct study committee meeting.

Waterbury-Duxbury- Alex Thomsen shared with the committee that the Waterbury- Duxbury Board had met and had discussed the advantages and disadvantages of the merger. When discussing merging two schools the question of quality in programs such as music or sports was raised if the enrollment of a school was significantly raised. The board also had governance concerns as well as concerns about the possibility of one board being able to close schools.

Moretown- The only concern the Moretown members expressed was about their MECA program.

**WWSU Financial Report:** Michelle Baker shared a financial report about insurable values of each school with the committees. She also shared a summary of long and short term debt for each school as well as the summary of maintenance reserves and the general fund. Discussion about the financial presentation followed.

Gabe Gilman and Brigid Nease discussed communication plans that included Op Eds being distributed via the WWSU website, Twitter, multiple Front Porch Forums, parent email, the local newspapers and on Brigid's blog. A timeline for communicating Act 46 was discussed.

The study Committee asked for clarification on "necessary" and "recommended" or "advisable" voting districts.

There was discussion regarding Articles. Article 9 concerns the best size of a combined board and Article 10 is about officer elections. It was decided that officer elections should not be considered until the size of a combined board is set. Other possible articles were discussed. The committee concluded that more information was needed about what each local board would consider important to. The committee representatives will email their local board members and ask for input on what they would like to see in the Articles. The Articles need to be confirmed by 17 December 2015 so that they can go to the local boards by January. A full Board meeting is 5 January 2016.

**Adjournment:** Gabe Gilman moved to adjourn the Study Committee and Jill Ellis seconded. The committee adjourned at 8:20 PM.

#### **Executive Committee**

**Preliminary Budget Discussion:** Michelle Baker informed the committee of changes to the WWSU budget because of Act 156 being implemented. The SU would like to centralize certain employees such as SLPs, Special Education personnel, ELL teachers and nurses at the SU level. At the meeting next week the general budget will be broken down with the Special education budget. The SU already keeps technology applications at the SU level and assesses them out to schools by equalized pupil. The SU would like to have education coaches centralized at the SU who can be easily dispatched out to schools. Centralization of services will be discussed at the next meeting. Brigid Nease would like to have a report of what our students do and do not have compared with other schools.

**Action:** Rosemarie White moved to confirm WWSU Board Warrant 1072 in the amount of \$38,493.30. Christine Sullivan seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Garett MacCurtain moved to enter into Executive session on a matter of personnel contract with Brigid Nease present. Alex Thomsen seconded and the committee entered Executive Session at 9:08 PM.

**WWEC Executive Session:** It was agreed to come out of executive session at 9:20 PM. Alex Thomsen moved to approve the revised employment contract for the superintendent beginning July 1, 2016 to include a payment of \$5,000.00 to her 403b retirement plan on July 1 of each year in those years when she does not participate in the health and dental plans offered as part of her contract. Beginning January 1, 2016, a payment of \$2500.00 will be paid to her 403b plan for the remainder of FY 2016 as a result of discontinuing her 2 person health and dental plans. Proof of other insurance coverage will be required annually. The motion was seconded by Rob Rosen and passed unanimously with no abstentions.

**Adjournment:** At 9:25 Rob Rosen moved to adjourn and Rosemarie White seconded at 9:25 PM. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lara Seaberg  
Minute taker