

## White River Valley SU Full Board Meeting

### DRAFT MINUTES

July 25, 2016

6:30 PM, WHS Cafeteria

Present: Jeff Sherwin, Frank Russell-Rochester, Dave Eddy, Tammy Ennis, Nancy Cyphers-Bethel, Joe Spinella, Rebecca Mattoon, Jessie Schmidt, Don Shaw-Chelsea, Kathy Galuzzo, Liz York-Tunbridge, Karen Henderson-Sharon, Stacey Peters-Hancock, Hilary Linehan-Strafford, Geo Hoenigford, Eunice Gavin, Christine Hudson,-Royalton, Bruce Labs, Donna Benoit, Mark Kline, Mary Ellen Simmons-WRVSU

Call to order: Bruce Labs called the meeting to order at 6:48pm. Introductions were given all around.

Adjustments to the Agenda: Kathy asked to discuss negotiation meeting dates. More notice time is needed. Item will be added to new business as 6.6.

Approve minutes of the May 31, 2016 and June 27, 2016 meetings: Geo made motion to approve these minutes, Kathy seconded. Minutes from 5/31 and 6/27 were approved.

Board Re-Organization: Rules & Responsibilities: Frank noted that the Rules and Responsibilities are found in VSA Title 16, section 262A. Board members should review.

Elect a Chair: Bruce entertained motions for nominations for Chairperson (member of the Green Mountain Forest Collaborative board of Directors). Frank nominated Don Shaw, seconded by Joe. No further nominations. Don Shaw elected Chairperson.

Vice Chair: Geo nominated Carl Groppe, seconded by Dave. No further nominations. Joe made motion to close nominations. So voted, Carl elected Vice-chair.

Clerk: Joe nominated Kathy Galuzzo, seconded by Geo. No further nominations, Joe moved to close nominations. So voted, Kathy elected Clerk.

Recording Secretary: This is optional, board appointed Joanne McDonnell

Co-Treasurers: Rose Hemond and Jean Burnham were nominated by Kathy, seconded by Frank. No further nominations, Joe moved to close nominations. Rose Hemond and Jean Burnham elected Co-Treasurers.

Alternate to Green Mtn Forest Collaborative (an association of supervisory unions throughout the state, and Don is our representative. Alternate is needed.) Kathy nominated Carl Groppe, seconded by Geo. No further nominations, Carl elected alternative.

Designate Newspaper for Official Notices: The Herald of Randolph and Valley News were designated. Short discussion about possibly using online forum such as Front Porch Forum, but decided this could be revisited later.

Other: Kathy asked to have a timekeeper for each meeting. Don recommends having this be a standing item on the agendas. Short discussion. This can be done at the beginning of each meeting.

Old Business: Bruce noted there is one change to the Strategic Plan on page 10 under efficiencies. A comment was made by someone that possibly compliance with Act 46 school structures language may need changes. Some options for K-6, K-8 may not be Act 46 solutions and wanted clarification. Language changed to solve the concern (see page 10, 4.2 of Strategic Plan). Liz noted that Mary Ann felt this new working addressed her concern. Joe made motion adopt the Strategic Plan, seconded by Rebecca. Frank noted that there are some misspellings to be corrected, and the motion was amended to adopt after spelling corrected. So voted. Bruce gave his thanks to all and noted that the plan will be given to teachers at the beginning of the school year. Don reiterated that this is a working document and will be amended and revised as time goes along.

Study Committee Update-Meeting Dates: PK-6/8 group will meet on August 3 at WRVSU. Steve Dale will facilitate. Kathy noted that Chelsea, Waits River and Rochester will all be invited to join the committee. The PK-12 committee will meet on August 18 at WHS at a time to be determined. The Non-operating committee will meet on Thursday August 25<sup>th</sup>.

Board Committee/Calendar-DRAFT: Bruce asked how the executive committee board would be comprised. Don noted there should be at least one representative from each school district should be elected or appointed to the board. Some boards have already done this. There will be a meeting on August 11<sup>th</sup> at the SU office. Frank asked for a discussion of the joint meetings schedule, and Bruce would like clarification. Frank explained that Rochester has held their board meetings on the third Tuesday for years, and now they need to change the date for Bethel/Royalton. They discussed at the last meeting, and are down to trying to schedule for the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday each month. He hasn't heard back from Carl Groppe yet, but asked to have a "placeholder" on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays. This would put Rochester/Stockbridge on Tuesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Discussion ensued about when the executive committee meetings vs full board meetings will be held. Jessie made motion to hold the full board meetings quarterly, special meetings as necessary, and the executive board meetings on the months that there are no full board meetings. Christine asked to have the two boards meet every other month (Exec Committee, Full board, Exec etc). Joe noted it is difficult to get a quorum for full meetings. Motion made by Jessie was seconded by Kathy, so voted. Frank opposed. These meetings will be held on the fourth Monday, so the next meeting will be the Executive Committee at 6pm at the SU office on August 29<sup>th</sup>. It was agreed that the video system for meetings at the SU can be utilized as well.

Authorization to sign petition for VEHI Board (Action item): Bruce asked again that board members appoint two people to sign the petition at their next meeting. This petition would change the makeup of the VEHI board by asking to allow 1 NEA member and 1 VSBA VT School Boards Association) member instead of 2 NEA members on the VEHI board. School boards are the ones who have to be able to answer budgeting questions, but have very little to no representation. Discussion ensued. This request came from a superintendent of schools and has been passed on to other superintendents to act upon. Board members need to appoint 2 members to sign the petition at their next meeting. Jessie also noted that we should authorize one member to act on behalf of the district regarding VEHI matters. Short discussion continued. Joe asked to have it in the minutes that there will need to be a representative appointed to be involved with VEHI matters, and that this will become part of the reorganization annually.

Follow-up Presentation for VTVLC-Mary Ellen Simmons (Action item): Mary Ellen Simmons introduced herself as the new part time curriculum coordinator. She has been working with principals to decide

what curriculum is needed. She noted she has been trained in online math classes, and this goes hand in hand with student teaching plans. Schools now pay \$13,000 per year for online classes. If this is moved to the SU level, all schools get seats for various online classes. If we are members of VTVLC, members pay \$60 per class, nonmembers pay \$375 per class. A representative in each school would need to be trained to oversee the program, and this would also add time to Mary Ellen's contract. Lengthy discussion ensued about adding the program. All agreed that this will make more opportunities available to our students, but there are concerns about adding programs not in the budgets. Frank noted that at this time, Rochester pays \$4500 and we have a certified teacher at the school. If this is opened up to the 6 schools (Rochester, WHS, Newton, SORO, Chelsea and Tunbridge), we will have to increase this budget line to 9400. Discussion continued. Noted that any student can take courses as long as they are in our district, and possibly adults could take advantage as well. Kathy made motion to take advantage of the WRVSU proposal of VTVLC as an SU program to be assessed to all 10 schools, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Geo. Discussion continued. Kathy called the vote. Due to the number of unanswered questions at this time, Kathy withdrew her motion and Geo withdrew his second. Jessie noted that since it takes about a year for teachers in the schools to get certified, we should work on that and revisit this next year. Jessie made motion to table this until the individual boards can discuss at their August meetings. Frank Russell seconded. Show of hands was necessary, and 12 voted to table, 4 voted not to. Item is tabled.

New Business: 504 Stipend Position: Bruce noted that there are a lot of 504 students within our district, but there is no coordination of policies from building to building. He is concerned about problems in the future. All need to be trained and policies must be created the same for each school. Training will need to continue over time. 504 students do not fall into SPED, and legal situations could cost far more than a stipend payment. Discussion ensued, and Bruce was asked to come back with a proposal for this position. Liz noted that principals should be included in the discussions as well.

Drivers Ed: Bruce noted that we may be able to utilize one car for the entire SU Driver's Ed program. He would like to sell the Rochester car which has not been used for years and consolidate down to one new one in Bethel. Short discussion ensued. Noted that each of the 4 PK-12 schools teach drivers ed at a different time right now.

Appoint back up signer for A/P warrants: Donna noted that right now, there are two SU members who sign A/P warrants and she would like one more to be available. Kathy nominated Geo, and he agreed. So voted.

Presentation of the Digital Learning Plan: Mark Kline introduced himself as the new technology supervisor and noted that the Technology committee has been working on this for the past year. They have cleaned up the details and made it more general. Frank noted that connectivity is a huge issue for the districts. Mark agreed, and noted that the DLP is a document to look at the direction we want to go technologically. They have been working on websites, and according to the discussions he's had with administration, IT staff and teachers from each school they feel technology at each school is adequate. Discussion ensued. Jessie noted that this plan points out the priorities that need to be worked on. Mark briefly reviewed the plan and noted that Town Libraries can be utilized for website access as well. Library Media specialists will also be available to help teachers with technology. In order to help move repairs and needs along, they are creating a "ticket" system. The teacher will fill out a form and submit it to the tech persona the school. This will help to track requests and the time it takes to solve issues. Mark noted that 3% of the total budget is recommended for technology. Bruce and Mark would like to see the

Digital Learning Plan included with the Strategic Plan. Dave made motion to accept the DLP as presented, seconded by Kathy. Nancy asked to amend the motion to include one change under the Hardware paragraph on page 6. She would like to change this to say that "Each school within the WRVSU is currently individually responsible for meeting their hardware needs". Joe seconded the amended motion. Motion passed as amended.

Professional Development Information: Bruce noted that there is money put aside for course work in each school. This amount is driven by the teachers, not by the SU. We have an approved Strategic plan and a Digital Learning Plan but no money to implement them. Bruce would like all boards to review these numbers during upcoming budget meetings as in some cases, more money is being budgeted than spent. Possibly this could be a topic of negotiations, and geo noted the negotiation team is looking at this. Discussion continued. It was noted that this could be discussed at budget time as well. Donna told the board that she has to review where the budget stands now to see if there could be any additional funds. Question was asked if trainings can be held during in service days. This could be a possibility.

Bruce also noted that he would appreciate all board members support when he gets push back on email address changes and bus lettering. Some principals are still not on board with the strategic plan, and he asked for board support for the plan as well.

Negotiations Meetings: This will be discussed with negotiation board members after this meeting.

Next executive board meeting is August 22, 2016 at 6pm at South Royalton.

Joe made motion to adjourn at 9:30 pm, seconded by Frank. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne McDonnell