

**PITTSFIELD SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2014 – 7:00 PM
PITTSFIELD TOWN HALL
Lower level(moved to Library)**

- I. CALL TO ORDER: Kris calls the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. Meg Powden, Alice Wirth and Richard Seaman (WCSU Financial Officer), Ray and A.J. present.
- II. CONSIDER AMENDMENTS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA: none.
- III. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMENT: None.
- IV. BOARD COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMENT: None.
- V. CONSENT AGENDA
 - A. Minutes of October 14, 2014- Ray moves to accept, Kris seconds, approved unanimously.
- VI. WNWSU REPORT
 - A. Superintendent's Report (Meg Powden): we discuss the recent SPED spreadsheet that Meg sent us today to assist in considering our budget when we switch to WCSU. Meg reports on efforts to help teachers train up to the new science standards (Next Generation Standards) as well as core standards already in existence. Meg reports on merger progress of other districts with OCSU.
- VII. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. Alice Worth, Superintendent and Richard Seaman, Director of Finance and Operation, Windsor Central SU: Alice reports that money from AOE to help us draft documents on agreements for the switch to the new SU would not be forthcoming until after January when the other districts in our SU have finalized their move. Alice reports that we are making this process up as we go along. We agree the goal is to get a document that will formalize and make clear all relevant aspects of Pittsfield's entry into the WCSU. Alice Meg reports that decision has been finalized. Alice wants to be sure we've had audits and can share them with her and Richard. We discuss how the SPED numbers we got from Meg and our WNWSU may be reduced when moving to the new WCSU.

We discussed how to determine the assessment. Alice says WCSU are assessed fully based on enrollment. Transportation is raised, noting that Killington has been paying for our kids' transportation for years and, especially for High School, they reportedly do not want to continue. SPED administration and federal program fund administration, Superintendent

office admin costs (mostly for boards, principals, so that gets looked at due to our not having a school) and financial services. WCSU charges the district by the number of buses and suggests that we pay for a whole bus or at least a third. We discuss that Pittsfield so far has never paid for any transportation but other schools, such as Killington, Rochester and Stockbridge pay for our kids to attend their schools. Kris notes that other Pittsfield families who don't go to Woodstock will have to be considered if WCSU suggests we need to pay for some of their transportation costs. A.J. notes we have not historically paid for any transportation as part of the SU budgets. Kris reports that per AOE consult, transportation is not part of allowable transportation.

Alice suggests assessing SPED admin costs based on child count, ie number of Pittsfield kids getting SPED services...on consolidated federal programs (cfp's) admin, Alice suggests ADM. We discuss that with Patti doing our books and our lack of a school means that Pittsfield will not need much in term of resources from WCSU admin staff, using skype or phone calls can work often as well. We discuss our need for WCSU finance assistance in budgeting for submission to Town Clerk for town meeting and having the SU admin at the Town Meeting.

Discussion of budgeting and bill paying procedures we have used while with the WNWSU with Richard. We discuss that we work on cash not accrual and we have no control over our expenses due to them being based solely on student numbers. Discuss who should pay the checks, us or the WCSU financial office. Richard will consider and consult on Pittsfield continuing to pay its own bills. A question is what duty the SU has for these bill paying activities. Richard will follow up on that. Richard and Patty Haskins will connect to discuss more details of our books and bill paying.

Kris discusses the budget process: we get SU budget numbers, we get kids numbers and where they're going, and plug in tuition numbers in early January. This gives us time to get the document finalized for Patty to have printed in late January. We discuss who will help prepare the budget, and Meg agrees that WNWSU will be responsible. We expect assessment numbers from WCSU to help WNWSU assist us with budgeting.

We will investigate and discuss these issues next meeting.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Merger update: see notes above.
- B. Payment Order #4: Stipends for board members \$315 times three for Kris, A.J. and Ray, \$200 for Patty; WNWSU Assessments Admin \$5,953.18, SPED \$22,807, EEE \$2,437.73; Clara Martin Ctr \$6,450; C & L Taxi \$2,990; RTCC \$8,998.39; Hartford School Dist VoTech \$866.56;

Rochester Town School ½ tuition \$40,000 – TOTAL \$91,647.86. Ray moves, A.J. seconds, approved unanimously.

IX. POLICY: None.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

XI. NEXT MEETING DATE/AGENDA ITEMS

A. DECEMBER 9, 2014 7pm Town Hall; SU Change update; budgeting update; payment orders.

XII. ADJOURNMENT: Kris moves to adjourn, Ray seconds all agreed at 9:43.

