

Regional Advisory Board Meeting  
May 9, 2024  
Minutes

Members present: Ruth Barton, Community Member; Anne Beekman, BUHS School Board; Christy Betit, BDCC; David Clark, Bellows Falls School Board; Mari Cornell, WRCC; Kathy Larsen, Twin Valley Board Member; Chloe Learey, Winston Prouty Ctr.; Eduardo Melendez, WRCC; Hannah Parker, BUHS; Linda Quay, WRCC; Mark Speno, WSESD; Nancy Wiese, WRCC; Rhonda Winegarner, WRCC; Bob Woodworth, Community Member/Chair and Jack Spanierman, BDCC.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 11:45 am Welcome everyone.

2. Approve the Agenda

Agenda was approved

3. Approve Minutes

Anne Beekman made the motion to approve minutes of the 3/14/24 meeting.

Minutes were approved.

4. Reinvigorating the Regional Advisory Board

Nancy has been researching the Title 16 and State law rules around RAB membership. Required membership - three community members. We can have more. Nancy has called Compass School but hasn't heard back. Will try one more time. David Clark said that he would try to scare someone up. Greenwood School was mentioned and Nancy has invited them to join but they declined. Chloe will also try to make contact. Need three voting members from the community. Will reach out to Bob Thibeault. Al Clausen was suggested. Chloe asked for a review of what the membership of the board should be. School board members from each community, superintendent or designee, and independent comprehensive schools. Current voting members are: Chloe, Woody, and Christy. Woody would like to step back. David Clark asked about bylaws. Nancy said that any board needs to have bylaws. Voting representation. RVTC has weighted votes according to number of students. David said that there is a push in Montpelier to change fundamental structure. Would like to suggest we keep an eye out on the future. Wants to have a good example of bylaws. It is important as a board to pay attention to Montpelier. APA continues to get information. Nancy added that our funding formula is based on a six-semester average. Students are counted in a bizarre way. Maybe progressive or regressive. First, we need to set up a board that will hold us as we make these changes. Nancy said that student outcomes are always the priority. This is Nancy's 5th year working through procedures. Now we can finally get to the basics. RAB should be a driving force and it hasn't been for some time. Nancy is concerned about weighted board members. We need to meet the needs of all students. Nancy loves that students think of themselves as career center students. David said that we need to think of ourselves as a school choice school.

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Nancy thanked the members who have consistently attended the RAB meetings. It is really important. Nancy shared several events that have recently taken place and how the board does make a difference. Rhonda informed the board of dual enrollment numbers and an overview of a career fair that was held in the high school.

Chloe asked when the year starts. Need some organization around that time. Nancy said that some people do not work over the summer. Nancy will send out bylaws and suggest a meeting in August or beginning of September. David suggested an ADHOC committee. Mark asked if the goal is to adopt the bylaws at the next meeting. Nancy said that we will review and approve at the next meeting. Chloe and David will serve on ADHOC. Chloe suggested getting people from other districts. Nancy said we will collect bylaws and advisory board members and announce over the summer. Kathy Larson asked if sending school counselors are part of the board. Nancy said that Anne Doran, our counselor, communicates with sending school counselors on a regular basis. Could invite them to come to a piece of the meeting. Chloe added that it would be more targeted. Woody said that he is involved with numerous organizations. He is always sharing the incredible potential that the career center offers.

Woody said that he would like to back down from the chair position. Woody has been chair for some time and feels it's time for someone new. He will always be a champion on Main Street. Chloe asked who could be chair. Nancy thinks anyone can be chair except for the superintendent of the district because if there is a concern regarding Nancy's job performance.

David Clark threw his hat into the ring for chair. He would be a short-timer. Let the younger generation try it. Expressed willingness to work on bylaws. Would prefer people that have served on the board longer.

Woody agreed to stay on while committee works on bylaws over the summer. Chloe said that we could have an acting chair. Woody will stay until the beginning of the year. David suggested proper bylaws to be considered when board has next meeting. A working document would allow for public comment then ratify. Nancy said once we know, we will discuss to be sure we're all on the same page.

Ruth said that she has been on the board since 2002 and would like to step down. Ruth said that she has enjoyed being on the RAB board. Would like to be relieved of duty. Nancy said we accept with regret. Ruth also added that her husband is a member of the Dummerston Wood Pantry and wanted to thank the Forestry program for all their hard work supplying wood to the pantry. Much appreciated.

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Nancy noted the wealth of history contained on the board and feels extremely lucky. Round of applause for Woody, Ruth and Joyce.

Ruth made the motion to adjourn. Motion was seconded.  
Meeting adjourned at 12:35.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Rathbun