

Regional Advisory Board Meeting
10/1/24
Minutes

Members present: Anne Beekman, WSESD Board; Christy Betit, Brattleboro Dev. Credit Corp.; Peter Broussard, WCSU. Board; Mari Cornell, WRCC; Anne Doran, WRCC; Kathy Larson (remotely), Twin Valley Board Member; Chloe Learey, Winston Prouty Ctr.; Eduardo Melendez, WRCC; David Potter, Twin Valley Middle/High School; Linda Quay, WRCC; Bob Thibeault (remotely), WCSU and Nancy Wiese, WRCC.

The meeting was called to order at 11:35 am.

Nancy reviewed the makeup required for the Regional Advisory Board. The board should consist of four school board members, four superintendents and three community members. We will go ahead with by-law discussion but there is no quorum to vote on them. Bob W. said that he is very passionate about this organization and would like to remain on the board.

I. Introductions

Introductions were conducted. Bob expressed that he enjoyed the work on the board.

2. Election of 2024-25 RAB Chair

What would people like? We want to at least elect a new chair as Woody wants to step down as chair. Nancy said that we have taken care of a lot of the student issues. Would like to have this in place in case government changes. This is an advisory board. We need someone to hold Nancy in check. It's important to have more than one voice. WRCC did just purchase two vehicles to help with transportation. Nancy is working on Figuring out transportation needs here and at home schools. David Clark volunteered last year to be chair. Some concerns about board members or superintendent to be chair. Bob Thibeault nominated Christy Betit to be chair and shared some of Christy's qualities. Chloe seconded the nomination and asked if we can vote without a quorum or email? It was decided to take the vote. Thank you to Bob W. and Christy. Bob made the motion to accept Christy Betit as the new chair for the RAB. Anne Beekman so moved and Peter Broussard seconded.

3. Approve the Agenda

Agenda was approved.

4. Approve Minutes from May 9, 2024

Minutes approved as written.

5. Discussion and Review of WRCC RAB By-Laws

Nancy suggested that we review the by-laws. Most of them come from the Statute. Articles were reviewed. Chloe asked if the board could not only review but make recommendations. Kathy Larsen asked if RAB advises one school board? Nancy replied that the RAB advises Windham Southeast School District. This board should have the right to meet without Nancy if you want to discuss Nancy's performance. Nancy would really like to make a suggestion that RAB review the budget with her to have input on what is written into the Perkins Grant. Nancy also had a surprise grant that she has been working on. Nancy would like more business representation on the board. Christy stated that she has great business connections. Would like to reach out

to them. Chloe added that this would be a heavy lift right now. Anne Doran added that the board can make recommendations about programs going forward. Christy said that we will ensure they align with the business sectors. We also need a vice-chair and secretary. The duties of the secretary are to warn the meetings, post on website and district website. Also, keep hard copies in the file. Nancy reviewed Article III and said that she is not worried about when the term expires. Bob Thibeault agrees. Chloe mentioned that she noticed Hinsdale was not mentioned. Nancy explained that by Statute, they do not have to be included. This year they are sending all their students but two to Keene. We have increased numbers from Bellows Falls but doesn't want to compete with another center. If Hinsdale continues to send students, we might include them. Christy said it makes sense to pull representation from Hinsdale. Anne Doran asked if this is a final copy? Chloe said we can amend it later. Technically this is an advisory board but by law, all meetings must be warned.

Section 6 - Alternates

Nancy wants more clarification from Ruth Durkee at the state level. Chloe added that the board is voting by members, not by school. Nancy said that we can vote that this is what it is since we are all in agreement.

Section 7 - Resignation

All RAB meetings shall be conducted in accordance with Roberts Rules of Order. Christy has her mom's copy that she will bring in. Nancy would be happy to make copies for the board.

Section 8 - Vacancy

Peter noted that any sort of executive session, you need to be able to present a reason to go into executive session. Chloe asked if it should be listed in the by-laws. Nancy will add it. Nancy will make all the changes to the by-laws and get a copy out to Everyone. Next meeting will discuss further if necessary and hopefully have a quorum. Chloe agreed to be vice-chair for one year. Christy moved that Chloe be vice-chair. Everyone was in favor. Will leave the secretary position empty for now. The next meeting will be focused on the budget.

The address list will be updated to show who the voting members are.

WSESD - Anne Beekman and Mark Speno

WCSU - Bob Thibeault and Peter Broussard

WNESU - Andy Haas and David Clark

WSWSU - Bill Bazyk and Kathy Larsen

Community members - Christy Betit, Chloe Learey, Bob Woodworth.

Chair can choose to vote or not to vote. Christy plans to strategize how to boost membership.

December 10th - more COVID money to come. Had to be encumbered yesterday. We would be eligible to apply. Money goes into the capital budget. We should replace some of the vehicles. Wrote a grant for \$80,000. and purchased a Sienna Toyota van and a Dodge RAM pickup. Five or less passengers - no bus driving license is needed. Nancy hopes to buy two more vehicles. Moving away from buying a bus. The goal is to

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minimize bus drivers. Can help with transporting students back to home school. Nancy explained that in the state of Vermont, we can't have a 12 passenger van. This plan is much more affordable.

Christy asked if there are any other items? Move to adjourn. Chloe seconded.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Rathbun