

Harwood Unified Union School District Board of Directors
Meeting: February 1, 2023
Location: Harwood Union High School Library and Remotely via Zoom*

OUR VISION: The Harwood Unified Union School District provides a rigorous, innovative and student-centered educational experience in a welcoming and inclusive environment while ensuring equity, effectiveness, and efficiency. We will partner with our community to achieve our vision for excellence.

Minutes - Approved

Board Members Present: Kelley Hackett (Waterbury), Kim Laidlaw (Fayston), Life LeGeros (Duxbury), Lisa Mason (Moretown), Jake Pitman (Waterbury), Kristen Rodgers (Moretown), Bobbi Rood (Waitsfield), Cindy Senning (Duxbury), Christine Sullivan (Waitsfield), Ashley Woods (Warren)

Board Members Absent: Michael Bishop (Fayston), Tori Taravella (Waterbury), Marlena Tucker-Fishman (Waterbury), Jonathan Young (Warren)

Student Reps Present: Jeswin Antony, Maisie Franke, Naomi Myers, Dylan Mauro

Admin Present: Lisa Estler (Director of Finance and Operations), Michael Leichliter (Superintendent), Sarah Schoolcraft (Principal, Brookside)

Media: Lisa Scagliotti (Waterbury Roundabout), Curtis Siegmann (Harwood Tech), MRVTV

Public Present: Carol Chamberlin (Recording Secretary), Amy Coach Dietz

Kristen Rodgers called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

Dr. Mike announced that HUHS has been awarded a 2023 Silver Magna Award by the National School Boards Association for the learning taking place through the Harwood Harkness Initiative.

Public Comment:

No public comments were provided.

Approve Agenda:

A motion to amend the agenda to include the action item to Approve Annual Meeting on Tuesday, March 6, 2023 and to Approve the Budget Warning for FY2024 and Annual Meeting Warning. Remove from Action Items: Approve/accept Audit. Add to consent Agenda: Approve overnight Music Festival Field Trip passed with no objection or abstention.

A motion to approve the agenda with the amendments passed without objection or abstention.

Board Reports:

- Leadership Report - A written report had been provided, no questions were asked.

- Superintendent - Dr. Mike was available to answer questions; none were brought forward.
- Director of Finance - Lisa answered questions regarding the written report she had provided.

Discussion:

- Change in Meeting Schedule - It was decided to meet on March 15 and cancel the March 8 meeting.
- Lisa Mason - Equity Lens work done so far - Lisa provided information regarding the work completed in this area and answered related questions from Board members.
- Superintendent Evaluation Form - Committee members presented information and Board members provided feedback on the Committee's proposed form and associated documents.

Action Items:

- *A motion to appoint Board members Cindy Senning, Life LeGeros, and Kelley Hackett to the Crossett Brook Co-Principal Interview Committee passed without objection.*
- *A motion to approve the Annual Meeting on Monday March 6, 2023 via Zoom and in person at the Harwood library passed without objection.*
- *A motion to request voter approval of the budget in the amount of \$45,422,241 and a projected equalized per pupil spending of \$22,322 passed without objection.*
- *A motion to request voter approval to allocate the FY22 unassigned audited fund balance as follows: assign \$696,931 to the school district's Maintenance Reserve Fund per VSA §2804 passed without objection.*
- *A motion to approve the language of Article VI of the Budget Warning to be "To act by Australian ballot on the following proposition "Shall the voters of the school district approve the school board to expend \$45,422,241 which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year?" did not pass.*
 - Yes: Life, Christine (11.9%)
 - No: Lisa, Kelley, Ashley, Bobbi, Cindy, Jake, (35.25%)
 - Abstain: Kim, Kristen (as chair)
- *A motion to approve the language of Article VI of the Budget Warning to be "To act by Australian ballot on the following proposition "Shall the voters of the school district approve the school board to expend \$45,422,241 which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$22,322 per equalized pupil." passed unanimously with Kristen abstaining as Chair.*
- *A motion to approve the Annual Meeting Warning and Budget Warning for FY2024 passed without objection or abstention.*

Consent Agenda:

A motion to approve the consent agenda, consisting of the items listed below, passed without objection or abstention.

- Approve minutes of 01/25/23
- Appointment of Duane Pierson as Co-Principal of Crossett Brook Middle School effective July 1, 2023

- Approve the overnight Music Festival field trip

Communications:

- Recap - Ashley will draft and Jake will review; the recap will include budget information as well as principal search committee recruitment.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.