

EWSD Governance Committee Meeting

June 11, 2019

Essex High School Library Conference Room 2

Meeting Minutes

Present: Brendan Kinney, Keeley Schell, Diane Clemens, Beth Cobb. Kim Gleason arrived at 6:42 p.m.

Called to order 6:35 pm

The committee reviewed the draft minutes from May 30. There were no edits, so Diane moved to approve the minutes. The motion passed 3-0.

Brendan reviewed the goals for the meeting. Committee members would share the results of their research.

Keeley discussed the sources of the big chart of governance types from the Hancock Research piece Brian O'Regan had shared with us at the retreat. Contacted Brian O'Regan for more leads on governance types, but he was traveling and needs to get back to us.

Beth shared her experiences learning about Policy Governance (PG) and discussing it with other educational leaders.

Diane discussed South Burlington's approach to monitoring reports and compliance. She identified strengths and weaknesses in their communications, their approach to board business, and the monitoring of the superintendent. The board doesn't seem to be really serious about PG. They have lots of committee meetings.

Brendan responded with challenges and temptations of modifying PG and how that affects the effectiveness of the model. Then he discussed his research on Winooski. He shared a sample agenda with policy codes throughout, and sample video where board chair introduces a monitoring report with a reminder of how it is an opportunity for incremental evaluation of the superintendent.

Kim responded with examples from ETSD. Both Kim and Brendan discussed the challenges in interpretation of the policies and figuring out how to monitor ends.

Keeley reviewed the information made available by Champlain Valley School District ahead of board meetings. They are not operating in PG but make a lot of effort to communicate what they are doing, relevant policies/reports/data for the discussion, etc. in advance to both the board and community.

Kim discussed principals' reports and the difference between the kind of info parents want and need vs the info the board needs. Part of the communication policy in PG to keep board informed of challenges.

Kim discussed Chittenden East. Most stuff right now is about Huntington lawsuit, Underhill ID. Agendas are not framed through policy and their information is hard to locate online. They are new to this and still in the process of implementing PG.

Brendan then asked what next steps we need to take in order to be able to deliver information to the board at June and August meetings.

Kim suggested we hear from the principals who operated under PG. We also need to invite people for a panel. Committee members will send ideas for people for a panel by the end of this week. Brendan will report out on our work at the June board meeting. Research on governance models will continue.

The meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Keeley Schell