

# TRSU BOARD

## Regular Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 4, 2019

6:00 p.m.

TRSU, The Roost

### I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

**Board:** Fred Marin, Mary Alberty, Paul Orzechowski, Dan Buckley, Joe Fromberger, Kate Lamphere,

**Staff:** Meg Powden, Cheryl Hammond

**Public:** Shawn Cunningham, Sue Ceglowski

Ms. Orzechowski called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

### II. APPROVE AGENDA:

Mr. Marin **moved** to approve the agenda. There was discussion about the appointment date of the treasurer and paragraph 343 indicates that the appointment is not due until July. The motion carried unanimously.

### III. APPROVE MINUTES:

#### A. March 27, 2019 Regular Meeting

Ms. Alberty **moved** to approve the minutes of the March 27, 2019 meeting. Mr. Buckley seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

### IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Cunningham questioned if tonight was the only evening of the superintendent evaluation. Ms. Ceglowski noted that it is a multi-step process. Prior meetings were held with the evaluation committee and there might be another meeting to wrap this process up. There was clarification that a survey was done of the board members, SU staff members and principals and the results were gathered by the VSBA consultant. Mr. Cunningham requested a copy of the evaluation survey. Ms. Ceglowski noted that the VSBA doesn't normally share the survey, but they do share it with the SU who has paid for the service. Mr. Cunningham noted that if board members are receiving the documents, it immediately becomes a public document. Ms. Ceglowski noted that the exception is evaluations. Mr. Cunningham clarified that he wasn't looking for the answers, just the questions. He also questioned that the board offered Ms. Powden a 2-year contract and then a 4% raise before the evaluation was done. Mr. Fromberger noted that the board decided that it would be in their interest to do a 2-year extension of the contract. The results of the vote were a 4-2 vote in favor. The concern voiced in open session was that they were going forward with an extension without an evaluation, but the vote stands. He felt that the next step in the contract was to set the remuneration for the contract. He explained that the board was aware that they had not completed an evaluation at that point, because they hadn't yet set goals or a rubric for the evaluation at that time. Mr. Marin noted that there hadn't been a job description prior to the one that was approved recently, so there was no format to set up criteria for an evaluation or time to implement that format in a meaningful way. Out of fairness, the board felt that they needed to set up the criteria and then review the input from the survey and determine how to move forward from there. The evaluation will be going forward.

### V. NEW BUSINESS:

#### A. Selection of Auditor

Ms. Hammond noted that the SU needs to go out to bid for an auditor every 3 years. It can get a one-year extension if there is no change in rate. Ms. Hammond reported that she sent out an RFP to 3 companies, but only 2 submitted bids.

RHR Smith and Ron Bulay bid on the job. RHR Smith came in “not to exceed \$40,000, then \$34,500 for the next two years. The other audit came in at \$38,000 for all three years. Ms. Hammond noted that Ron Bulay does not have a not to exceed clause and they are higher over the course of the 3 years (“not to exceed” \$109,000 versus a set \$114,000). There was discussion about whether LMH would be easier to audit after BRHS closes, but Ms. Hammond advised not necessarily, as tuition students and their tuition payments can be more difficult to track. There was discussion about changing from 10 districts and 6 boards to 2 districts and 3 boards and that being likely the reason why this next year is higher in their bid than the following two years. Ms. Hammond recommended RHR Smith, the same company they have been using.

Mr. Fromberger **moved** to follow the recommendation of the Financial Director and approve the bid of RHR Smith as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION: TITLE I V.S.A. 313 (3):**

**A. Superintendent Evaluation**

After finding that premature general public knowledge would clearly place the public body or a person involved at a substantial disadvantage, Mr. Buckley **moved** to enter executive session at 6:18 p.m. to discuss the superintendent’s evaluation under Title 1 V.S.A. § 313 (3) inviting Ms. Ceglowski and later adding Ms. Powden. The motion carried unanimously.

The board returned from executive session at \_\_\_\_\_ p.m. [action taken]

**VII. NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting will be Thursday May 2, 2019 at the Roost.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT:**

\_\_\_\_\_ **moved** to adjourn at \_\_\_\_\_ p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Amber Wilson  
Board Recording Secretary