



**JOINT SCHOOL BOARD-GOVERNANCE COUNCIL
CHARTER SCHOOL CONTRACT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
March 23, 2023 – 1:00 p.m.
Waupaca High School Community Room and [Live Stream](#)**

Welcome and Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chairperson Dale Feldt at 1:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

Present in the WHS Community Room: Committee members present were Chairperson Dale Feldt, Megan Sanders, Sandy Robinson, and Becky Lange. Additionally, Board members Stephen Johnson and Ron Brooks were present.

Excused: Betty Manion, Steve Klismet, and Autumn Beese.

Also Present:

Present in the WHS Community Room: Ron Saari, Sandy Lucas, Carrie Naparalla, and Steve Thomaschefsky.

Approval of Agenda:

A motion was made by Ron Brooks and seconded by Dale Feldt to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

Review of Committee Meeting Norms and Commitments:

The Committee reviewed their collective norms and commitments.

Sharing “Living Document” and Making Changes Real Time:

Chairperson Dale Feldt advised that the Committee will work on the contract using a “living document” so that everyone is working on the same document, changes will be made as we go, and certain Committee members and Administration will have editing rights, avoiding the confusion of having different copies of the contract. We will then review the changes at the next meeting.

A concern was raised that working off of the redline version was difficult to follow; however, many of the Committee and Board members felt that it was easier to see where the changes were made, adding that once approved, the changes could be accepted and we would then have a clean document. There was some hesitation with “accepting” the changes once approved. So instead, the Committee decided that even when a consensus is reached, the changes will remain as indicated. The Committee determined that it will: use the redline version of the contract; track changes in yellow highlights; track areas to wordsmith in green highlights; and review the yellow and green highlights at the next meeting and if the green highlights are accepted, they will then be highlighted in yellow.

Review One-Year Contract Updates:

The Committee compared the March 7, 2023, meeting Minutes with the redline draft of the one-year contract to be sure that all of the approved changes were incorporated. Committee member Sandy Robinson advised that she added language (which was highlighted in yellow) in Sections 5.1 and 5.2 that was discussed per the Minutes but that she had not included in the draft of the one-year contract, so those sections were amended.

Questions were directed to the Governance Council as to why GC members are on the hiring committee. GC President Megan Sanders advised that they just used that model when the CEC was originally set up, and it is just for the hiring of Advisors, not Educational Assistants or other staff members. Since it is something that they have been doing, they thought that for this one-year contract they would leave it as is, but it would be up for discussion when creating the multi-year contract.

A question was raised regarding the CEC's school calendar, and CEC Administrator Carrie Naparalla advised that it follows the SDW's calendar but it also has all of the CEC's specific activities on it as well.

Chairperson Feldt inquired as to the meaning of Section 8.2. Ms. Sanders advised it was required for the funding granted by ESSA -- we are going to get the same funding so we had to explain how those funds would flow. The Committee further discussed the last sentence of Section 8.2. Ms. Sanders advised that we don't have any other contracts that will have to be grandfathered in. It was suggested that perhaps verbiage should be added indicating a timeframe or that they cannot look back further than that current contract.

There being no further discussion on the draft of the one-year contract, Chairperson Feldt asked Mrs. Robinson to provide a clean copy for approval by the SDW Board and CEC GC.

Board President Stephen Johnson suggested that since the one-year contract isn't due until June 30th, and the Committee may have the multi-year contract completed by then, perhaps we should wait to submit the one-year contract so we aren't sending multiple contracts to the DPI. Mr. Saari and Ms. Sanders advised that if the multi-year contract is approved by June 30th, we can submit it. Several Committee and Board members agreed that we should hold off filing the one-year contract to see if the multi-year contract is completed.

Chairperson Feldt advised that the Committee will move to approve to accept the one-year contract but it will not submit it to the DPI, and if the multi-year contract is completed by May 31st, that will be submitted to the DPI in place of (not in addition to) the one-year contract. If the multi-year contract is not completed, then the one-year contract will be submitted to the DPI. He also asked Ms. Sanders and Mrs. Robinson to advise him of whether the GC approves the one-year contract before the April 11, 2023, regular SDW Board meeting.

Review and Revise Draft Multi-Year Contract:

Review of Recitals:

The Committee began working on the new multi-year contract using the redlined draft. Chairperson Feldt advised that the first item of discussion is the Recitals. He advised he researched the definition of recitals and it is not what is in this draft contract. WRCCS' example language of Recitals is very good, so he suggested replacing the current Recitals in our contract with those. In doing so, r3 and r4 should be stricken and highlighted in green for rewording, as we will add those in an article somewhere else in the contract, and they will be replaced with two from the WRCCS sample contract.

Create Definitions within Article 1 for Instrumentality and Autonomy:

Chairperson Feldt advised that definitions for the terms “Instrumentality” and “Autonomy” need to be added. Mr. Feldt, Mrs. Robinson, and Mr. Saari each shared their proposed definitions. Mr. Johnson questioned the need to define them here as they may be found later in the contract. But it was argued that we need to agree what each of these are, thus the need for definitions.

There was some discussion relating to Mr. Saari’s definition of instrumentality and what is meant by “limited degree of freedom.” Again, it may come out as we discuss the contract further, but everything goes back to autonomy. It was suggested that it may refer to the contract. Mr. Feldt shared WRCCS’ definition of freedom.

Ms. Sanders pointed out that we need to make sure the contract is more clear and as easily readable as possible for parents and new staff.

Some Board members commented that they struggle with the fine line between independence and autonomy. After further discussion, Chairperson Feldt advised that he liked the definition of autonomy provided by Mrs. Robinson, as we need to be general in the definitions, and then we can define them in more detail in the contract; the Committee agreed. It was reiterated that if we will be defining them in the contract, there is no need to have a definition set out here. Mrs. Robinson noted that the law needs to be referenced in the definition here as she had indicated. Mr. Saari suggested adding “autonomy with accountability” and then we can define it more as we go through the contract, but Mrs. Robinson advised that accountability is part of the law.

Much discussion then ensued regarding the definition of instrumentality. The Committee determined that it will revisit this later as it may become defined as we work through the contract.

Mr. Saari questioned whether there should be a definition for operational budget as in #9 of the WRCCS sample contract. But the Committee determined it was OK with not having it in there, noting that we can always come back and revise any of these definitions if necessary.

Create a New Article 2:

Chairperson Feldt advised that we need to create a new Article 2, incorporating much of the language found in Article Two of the WRCCS sample contract, and relabel it “Parties, Authority, and Responsibilities.” This Article will also include the former r3 (that was under Recitals). In addition, Sections 2.4 and 2.6 of the WRCCS contract are not needed, but Section 2.5 does need to be included. We will also incorporate Section 2.3 of the GC’s draft contract.

Due to time constraints, Chairperson Feldt advised that we will stop here with Article 3 and asked the Committee to review these changes for discussion at the next meeting. Mrs. Robinson added that when we look at the benchmarks, we will see if we have met them and where there are gaps. She offered to indicate on the draft contract where the benchmarks are. The Committee was reminded that everything highlighted in yellow were changes made today, and the green highlights indicate where wordsmithing is needed.

Mr. Saari advised that he will make a copy of this contract which will then become our working copy, and he will share it (with editing rights) with specific Committee members and Administration.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Ron Brooks and seconded by Dale Feldt to adjourn the meeting at 2:27 p.m. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.