

**Mount Ascutney School District Board**  
**Draft Minutes**  
**April 8, 2019**

**Present:** Elizabeth Burrows, Bill Yates, Amy McMullen, Nancy Pedrick, Tiffany Cassano, Jenifer Aldrich

**Not Present:** Kris Garnjost

**Guests:** Andrew Wood, Peter Clarke, Wendy Moody

Meeting called to order at 7:01 PM.

**Public Participation:** None

**Minutes:** March 25

Amy McMullen asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Elizabeth Burrows moved; seconded by Bill Yates; motion passed.

**Discussion Items:**

Lunches:

Dave Baker mentioned nothing new to report. Elizabeth Burrows mentioned Ed Connors had negotiated a one year extension for Windsor and will take care of West Windsor. Dave Baker mentioned this gives this board a chance to see self operation at Weathersfield and Hartland.

Innovation Team:

Dave Baker mentioned at the last meeting there was talk about the need, as a new district, to do visioning and looking at new district. Peter Clarke agreed to talk about what the scope of the work might be and what done with other districts around strategic planning. Peter Clarke mentioned Central Vermont created an innovation team of faculty, parents, community members, and board members to look at where district at and facilities. Amy McMullen mentioned this is how we want our team to look. Bill Yates mentioned it is good to have an outsider be the facilitator. Peter Clarke mentioned it is hard for the administration to do the work and facilitate. Should take a look at where are with initiatives in terms of curriculum at Windsor going forward. The Act 46 report should be the starting point that the board should be fulfilling and creating more unified culture. An innovation team with both communities would create that. Central Vermont looked at what was in place, looked at Act 46 report and followed up with vision statement. A mission statement rarely changes and is about core values. Look at mission with certain challenges and opportunities. What is it that you want to specifically accomplish in five years? If accomplish then look ahead to another five years.

The two processes people using: mission and vision are generalized document. Working with schools on Portrait of Graduate -- what does individual you want to graduate look like (K-12 or end of elementary school). Value is picture allows you to talk about intellectual development, leadership, and then able in specific ways (want kids to look like), what are opportunities

(curricular opportunity), purposeful thing that do that will lead to outcome. More outcome is driven piece and create a portrait that is measurable and what opportunity you put in place. Allow administration and teachers to look at place in school to what accomplishing in the school. If no opportunity for leadership how expect skills to be developed. Allows boards, when look at budgets, to say how contribute to what we want for kids. Portrait of Graduate has been used in the last 5-8 years. Phrase for teachers, instead of handbook, what are professional qualities, communication, how interact for everyone, and better support vision/mission and support individual you want to graduate. There is more targeted feedback. You can then do post graduate, what are opportunities/challenges, do we have facilities to support best practices. How inclusive want this process and suggest you want it inclusive. Should interface with students. Do assessment of data, where things are at.

You could also do what challenges facing. Schools wonder if have resources and procedures in place for things. What are support systems in place supporting administrators. Get sense of what people thinking about their work. What are fundamental philosophies you want in this district? Opportunity to structure conversation among people of things they want surfaced. People sometimes feel not being heard. What type of scope do you want? In terms of time frame, should begin in spring. Amy McMullen feels we want to create a new school district as given new opportunity and something that proves best opportunity for kids. Start broad and be as inclusive as can and want people supporting Mount Ascutney School District and have a voice in how create. Bill Yates mentioned you described starting at beginning and great idea, next step, and particular needs. Portrait of Graduate needs to apply to everyone. Those with trauma and emotional needs and concentrating on those is the strategy for success.

Amy McMullen mentioned at Windsor we asked what the community wanted and to start at the beginning of a new school district is exciting. Elizabeth Burrows feels should do nationwide research on what being done in other places so have component that takes its ideas out there. Amy McMullen was at a standards board for educators meeting and the AOE was talking about proficiency based for graduation. Some schools in Vermont using proficiency based graduation requirements. Look at what happening in Vermont. Elizabeth Burrows wondered if our district would be a good district for the Terrin Institute at UVM. Peter Clarke feels is good and yes would be. What want to do and will ask you what want to work on. Have good initiatives for middle school and elementary school teaming. Ottauquechee School is working with them.

Peter Clarke mentioned what the Ottauquechee School did was define the school where teachers want to take project based curriculum. The Terrin Institute brought people in. Peter Clarke mentioned they may have people to help you with the broader vision but not sure of the support provided. Peter Clarke mentioned there are other good organizations. Once have a sense of where going might want to work with experiential and instructional model (expeditionary learning). Good organizations with good track record but suggest get sense of where going and support what in place. For nationwide, suggest if money in budget, look at national conferences to see what happening and get small teams of teachers out there.

Peter Clarke mentioned should get a broad innovation team to guide it. Elizabeth Burrows asked where start? Peter Clarke mentioned as a broad charge and setting up committee of

16-18 people and have broad representation. Important that Dave, Jenifer, Tiffany, Curriculum Director, and Special Needs Director be on it. It should be different age groups -- new and old families. Have a broad series of open ended meetings for people to talk about what's happening (students, parents, teachers). Creating safe places where challenges are getting out and heard. Want as many opportunities for people to meet and get out to talk. Best strategy is call people up. Want to hear from as many constituents as possible. In terms of challenges you will get a lot of data. The hard part is to come out with strategic place where going; such as, where buildings are. With new district you have a chance to say are one community and process should reinforce this and relationships of people knowing this. There should be cultural mindfulness to bring the two communities together. Amy McMullen mentioned this is a sign of opportunity. We have community votes for merger and approved budget. Believe that the community wants to be part of setting direction where we want to go. Dave Baker mentioned the next step is to authorize the superintendent to engage in a conversation with Peter Clarke on the scope of the work and get a sense of what do in year one. Secondly, are we saying better to put out invitation to communities, staff, stakeholders who want to serve on innovation team or one big forum first and then get team in place. Bill Yates feels need a starting point but likes idea of a thoughtful and planned way of coming up with the committee. First step is authorize you to do it. Process will require someone from the outside with experience. Whatever decide to do has to be well orchestrated otherwise not successful in first step and we fail. Peter Clarke feels should create the innovation committee and then do outreach. The danger is you miss people that could contribute and are interested and charged up. Starting place might be, once get scope, is to start to bring people in to have a discussion at another board meeting. Figure out purpose of talking about fundamental goals and who interested in getting involved and building committee from there. Portrait of Graduate would be built with targeted meeting with parents. There will be common values and give people a chance to contribute.

Dave Baker mentioned notion of a forum and very few places that point to where done internally. Where see innovation and reform is where start from scratch. You are starting something new and structure to work within and opportunity to start fresh and how design K-12 district from scratch. Next step is to authorize superintendent to negotiate a scope of work to be presented at next board meeting -- outline of what do and associated costs.

Elizabeth Burrows asked Peter if any ideas for sources of funding. Peter Clarke mentioned not sure who gives these kinds of grants. There are non-profits that may be interested. Dave Baker mentioned he will look at grants through Big Picture Learning. Peter Clarke feels should not talk about this with professional staff as taking another turn. What talking about is building a dialogue and building coherence of what being done and create large vision. There is clarity of what is important. Does the vision extend to teachers in West Windsor as to what happening in Windsor? Do not portray that trying to get clarity of where going. Dave Baker mentioned is our district, our high school and not trying to force fit schools into one another but create a system of feeding into high school. Peter Clarke mentioned building community.

Transportation:

Dave Baker this is how to reconfigure bus funds so not on buses for too long. Jenifer Aldrich mentioned basically if do share do not want kids to be on busses for long periods of time. Make sure there is equity and kids not left out if no transportation. Bill Yates feels has to do with bus routes and look where everyone is and look at district busses. Jenifer Aldrich mentioned recently decided that kids should not be on bus for a long time and we have someone here to meet them. Tiffany Cassano mentioned have been in communication with the bus company as to what the routes are. The bus company develops the routes. Dave Baker mentioned had a conversation with Amy and we are not going to open intradistrict choice but first look at enrollments. Once get clear on enrollment will then start talking about that. Elizabeth Burrows mentioned talked about a petitioning policy at the SU that if moving kids around here would be secondary lottery chance if that happens. Amy McMullen mentioned need that on SU level. If SU passes this we need to be mindful of how it works with us.

Amy McMullen mentioned was discussed in the past and students for whatever reason have had more challenges where are and possibly going to another school is a better fit How worked in the past was you paid tuition. Instead of having we send so many out and taking so many is that our policy is on a case-by-case basis on documented student need. Money stays at the home school. Elizabeth Burrows feels do need a policy. Amy McMullen mentioned should establish policy for specific need and we want to serve every child and family. Bill Yates mentioned is tuition question and by law have to establish by law where student goes that school claims the ADM. Amy McMullen mentioned can fashion that money but does not follow. There would have to be a policy that the ADM stays with the school. Dave Baker mentioned there is nothing in the law that says pay tuition for elementary. Elizabeth Burrows feels is important to create a policy as now nothing in place. Dave Baker mentioned not pushing this and did research. Elizabeth Burrows mentioned, for clarity, was did not have quorum at last meeting and started talking about it. Bill Yates likes the point of looking at case-by-case basis and do not want to put in lottery. Dave Baker feels important as could complicate transportation.

#### Early Release Days:

Dave Baker mentioned doing work on this and as working in Windsor and something new to West Windsor. Jenifer felt it's important that staff have a discussion and last week Tiffany and I presented the benefits and protocols using in Windsor. General consensus is to give this a try district wide and approve a calendar that includes release days on Friday's next year. All kids offered enrichment activities which will be expanded. We will need to find someone at West Windsor to work with Wendy Moody. Activities will be offered at both schools. Authorize the calendar to include Friday release days. Elizabeth Burrows asked who chooses what activities student goes to. Tiffany Cassano mentioned parents make the decision and can switch at trimester.

#### High School Policies:

Elizabeth Burrows feels should have electronic devices policy and could be extended to SU. Have Larry involved in drafting this. Dave Baker mentioned when sunset other policies there are high school policies that need to be updated. Look at electronic AU Policy.

Bill Yates feels use of cell phones is more of a procedure than a policy. Make sure it is within the AUP policy that includes handheld devices and all computers. Dave Baker feels the administration may want to talk about procedures for the handbook. Bill Yates mentioned within the elementary school should create a procedure to have and use.

**Action Items:**

Laurie Brown - Leave of Absence. Elizabeth Burrows asked the policy. Dave Baker mentioned it is driven by the contract and the board can approve up to a one year and hold position and seniority. Amy McMullen asked for a motion. Nancy Pedrick moved; seconded by Bill Yates. Dave Baker mentioned that person taking her place understands is only one year. Motion passed.

Patrick Allen - Paternity Leave -- August 26 to October 7. Amy McMullen asked for a motion. Nancy Pedrick moved; seconded by Bill Yates; motion passed.

Amy McMullen asked for a motion to authorize the superintendent to discuss the scope of work and discuss expenses for innovation team with Peter Clarke and bring back to next meeting. Elizabeth Burrows moved; seconded by Nancy Pedrick; motion passed.

Amy McMullen asked for a motion to approve the calendar that includes weekly early release days on Friday. Nancy Pedrick moved; seconded by Bill Yates; motion passed.

**Agenda:** May 13

Information from Peter Clarke  
Policies  
Principal Report

**Adjournment:**

Amy McMullen asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Nancy Pedrick moved; seconded by Elizabeth Burrows; motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Tessier, Board Secretary