

**Mount Ascutney School Board  
Draft Minutes  
February 27, 2019**

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

**Not Present:** Beth Carter

Meeting called to order at 6:38 PM

**Agenda Revisions:** None

**Public Participation:** None

**Minutes:** January 10, 2019

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

**Discussion Items:**

District Meeting Presentation:

The board went over the presentation for the district meeting, Saturday, March 2, 1:00 PM in the Lois E. White Theater.

Policies:

Elizabeth Burrows mentioned her and Nicole Buck, Hartland Board Chair, met on what to do with policies and decided, with very few exceptions, the majority would be dumped in favor of the Vermont School Boards Association (VSBA) replacement. Some VSBA policies need to be updated. At the next SU meeting we will vote to dump and some maybe untouched before June 30. Higher priority is on the high school policies that need to be looked at. Any policies having to do with the high school will be sent to the board.

School Population Determinants:

Transportation and how affected and whether boundaries between towns should be considered separately or if that should be determinant factor. Dave Baker asked boundaries or lottery? The transportation company feels can make this work without adding another bus. Do we want to look at equity standpoint, how many go to school with, how many teachers have? Need to get a sense from the board is that a priority or is boundary or lottery. Elizabeth Burrows mentioned she has been thinking about this as some does not take care of proximity. Nancy Pedrick mentioned if double population would have to get more teachers as Windsor has straight grades. Bill Yates feels would be better to take location out of it as the need would be for a certain level. We should look at need first. Elizabeth Burrows feels should not flip students back and forth. Bill Yates mentioned cannot expect the grade level of a town to remain consistent. Balancing class size out for academic reason is a real benefit. Dave Baker mentioned what discussed is did we want to look at staffing patterns in terms of saving some money. Given newness would not do this right off. We need to have this conversation so can

look at direction. Issues are boundary, lottery, or are we married to multi-age approach. Bill Yates feels the first approach is to look at educational benefits, any cost savings, and then how decide who moves. Kris Garnjost feels is about philosophy, equity, educational opportunity and should be whole district. We need to look at it as a whole system. Figure out what we are going to do so does not disrupt either school. We need people to feel is all their school district and figure out how to proportion this and remove town boundaries quickly. Otherwise will always be this separation. Bill Yates feels we should look at hybrid options. Kris Garnjost mentioned can look at how to get the most out of it. Dave Baker mentioned, if philosophy, is more kids to intermingle with and then can come back with different options.

Nancy Pedrick mentioned, from a teacher's point of view, a single grade is easier. Bill Yates mentioned as move forward philosophy wise and then gets in discussion of degrading. Should have a level and student goes to that level when ready. Kris Garnjost mentioned some people will look at economics of small class vs. large class. We need to continue to speak to economics. Elizabeth Burrows mentioned, with the lottery system, need to look at projected number of students and open slots. Dave Baker asked what would preferences be. Elizabeth Burrows feels would be a comfort to teachers that would be a stable class population. Andrew Wood mentioned teachers at Albert Bridge would rather have either single grade or multiage and not change every year. Jenifer Aldrich mentioned if multi-age cohort can do looping (spend more than one year with students) and creates a more stable environment. Dave Baker mentioned once get to philosophical approach can get stability in both buildings. What would like to do is get a general sense what could come out of this. Dave Baker, Jenifer Aldrich, and Tiffany Cassano will spend time on this and will update the board on March 25. Kris Garnjost feels should put out to the communities and give them the opportunity to discuss it. Bill Yates mentioned should look at different groupings for multi-age. Jenifer Aldrich stated we can create what we want at this point. Let's look at what research says and can make it what we want. We will look at what makes an expert teacher and what does the state require. We need to figure out how we can make this real exciting for us. If the public does this with us then can put a real change out there. This is personalized project based. Kris Garnjost feels is a great opportunity for progression created from the bottom up.

#### School Lunches:

Elizabeth Burrows asked where do we stand with this. Dave Baker mentioned that Ed Connors has consulted with Cafe Services and told them we are one district and Cafe Services is in the process of doing up a plan. We have commitment and know what have to do. Elizabeth Burrows mentioned that she thought the Cafe Services contract was up June 30 and contract would have to be renegotiated. Is Ed getting additional bids? Policy says has to be three sealed bids. Dave Baker mentioned the new procurement process for lunch is much more. Elizabeth Burrows asked, if adding on West Windsor to that service, are we not altering the contract. Dave Baker mentioned they are allowed to create a satellite site and operating under a contract that is null and void. Bill Yates asked if it is possible to get a waiver from the, Agency of Education (AOE) to allow us to finish the five year contract and add an addendum. Kris Garnjost feels we need to find out what can do and what want to do.

#### School Calendar:

Dave Baker mentioned the way we do them has changed. The association, in consultation with the superintendent, will negotiate, mediate, and facilitate a calendar. The Administrative Team vets the calendar, then goes to association, and then comes out a unified calendar and presented to the board as an FYI. What local boards can do is decide whether or not they want any additional release days. Windsor has had Thursday early release days for professional development. As it is now Mount Ascutney, and advocated by both administrators, cannot have teachers in Windsor out on Thursday and in West Windsor working. All conversations have to be with this board and need to figure out what works. Elizabeth Burrows asked what provisions are made for kids. Tiffany Cassano mentioned we get out at 12:30 and have multiple activities for elementary students with a variety of options to choose from. It is free as is an extended day. Amy McMullen mentioned high school students have helped with some of the programs. Tiffany Cassano mentioned it gives an opportunity to offer things to students that cannot do during the school day. Elizabeth Burrows asked if there could be a bus for West Windsor students to come here. Tiffany Cassano mentioned on early release days the activities end at the regular time. We have Bridging the Gap (BTG), after school program, that goes until 5:30. There is nothing saying that cannot access that. Kris Garnjost mentioned if parents and students do not want to participate they do not have to.

Dave Baker asked how the board wants to proceed as have to provide the opportunity for all kids. Elizabeth Burrows feels would be a lot less complicated and all students getting to know teachers. Dave Baker mentioned we can talk to BTG. Jenifer Aldrich mentioned, as is taking away teaching time from kids and want to provide good education, could possibly extend the day a little. Tiffany Cassano mentioned Windsor starts at 7:45 AM and ends at 2:40 PM. Teacher day is 7:45-3:15.

Dave Baker mentioned unified school day is in the teacher contract and gives the administration and board flexibility to set start and end times for this district. Tiffany Cassano mentioned we cannot change end time due to Cornish students meeting up with their bus. Jenifer Aldrich mentioned some West Windsor students have an hour long bus ride. Nancy Pedrick asked if we have to have the same time. Jenifer Aldrich mentioned with combined professional development we need the same time. Bill Yates mentioned separate times would be an issue. Dave Baker asked Jenifer, as classes start at 8:15 at Albert Bridge, when does the first student arrive. Jenifer Aldrich mentioned they are not supposed to get there until 8.

Elizabeth Burrows asked if we need to decide now or wait until talk to transportation company. Amy McMullen feels it would be good for all our teachers to be actively engaged. Elizabeth Burrows asked if enrichment program do some not have access during the day. What about kids on IEPs. Tiffany Cassano mentioned they have access to all programs and we work with accommodations. Open to every student.

Agenda: March 25

Lunches

Transportation

Release Days

High School Specific Policies

**Executive Session:**

Elizabeth Burrows asked for a motion to enter executive session for the purpose of Title 1, Section 313. Nancy Pedrick moved; seconded by Amy McMullen; motion passed. The board entered executive session at 8:31 PM.

Elizabeth Burrows asked for a motion to exit executive session and move to ratify the Support Staff and Teacher Master Agreements. Bill Yates moved; seconded by Amy McMullen; motion passed.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Tessier, Board Secretary

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