

**Mount Ascutney Board
Draft Minutes
January 10, 2019**

Present: Elizabeth Burrows, Bill Yates, Nancy Pedrick, Amy McMullen, Kris Garnjost, Jenifer Aldrich, Tiffany Cassano, David Baker, Ed Connors, Andrew Wood

Meeting called to order at 6:35 PM.

Minutes: January 3, 2019

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

Public Participation: None

Discussion Items:

Budget: Ed Connors

Amy McMullen asked about tuition being paid to other high schools. Ed Connors mentioned middle level is \$198,360 and high school is \$577,681. The budget goes in as a combined budget.

Maintenance budget will be combined.

Elizabeth Burrows requested, if it's possible, to reveal the tax numbers going back to FY17 showing the range in taxes. Dave Baker mentioned the challenge at the school district meeting is that it will be good for West Windsor but will not go over well in Windsor. If take historically the Windsor tax rate was about 1.18 and West Windsor was about 1.85 and next year West Windsor is 1.42 and Windsor 1.46. Trying to demonstrate that part of the rationale for merging is tax rates will start to equalize and is a big hit for one town and goes in the opposite direction for the other town.

ECP Program is a combination of both assessments.

Amy McMullen asked about the district wide board of education? Ed Connors mentioned the \$15,000 is transfer of the food program. This line item is also for advertising, printing, supplies, dues and fees.

Elizabeth Burrows asked if there is a budget for field trips in Windsor. Tiffany Cassano mentioned they are built into transportation, some trips do fundraising, and some parents pay.

Elizabeth Burrows asked for a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2020 budget of \$11,608,687. Amy McMullen moved; seconded by Nancy Pedrick; motion passed unanimously.

Amy McMullen mentioned she plans on highlighting where the whole SU was when she got on the board.

Dave Baker mentioned a similar message is to emphasize that do not expect a tax decrease every year. Combining will stabilize everyone.

Bill Yates mentioned when look historically Windsor had a tough time with a deficit and this merger equalizes everything off and makes taxable property within the district.

Dave Baker mentioned there have been a lot of forced mergers and this board has moved forward in an amicable and dignified way.

Elizabeth Burrows wanted to clarify that there will be one warned informational meeting on March 2, 1:00 PM, in the Lois F White Auditorium.

Dave Baker mentioned the West Windsor Board has to elect from the floor the board member whose term is up to finish out the West Windsor School District term. Windsor has to elect by Australian ballot the two members whose terms are up. Amy McMullen mentioned the members would be on for however long it takes to close out the books.

On the Mount Ascutney School District ballot are getting signatures for moderator, clerk, and treasurer.

Agenda: February 7

Presentation

Policies

School Lunches

Adjournment:

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Tessier, Board Secretary