

**Mount Ascutney Board  
Draft Minutes  
March 25, 2019**

**Present:** Amy McMullen, Elizabeth Burrows, Beth Carter, Nancy Pedrick, Bill Yates, Kris Garnjost, Jenifer Aldrich, David Baker

**Not Present:** Tiffany Cassano

Meeting called to order at 5:15 PM by Superintendent Dave Baker.

**Reorganization:**

Chair: Dave Baker asked for nominations. Nancy Pedrick nominated Amy McMullen; seconded by Kris Garnjost; motion passed.

Vice Chair: Amy McMullen asked for nominations. Nancy Pedrick nominated Elizabeth Burrows; seconded by Kris Garnjost; motion passed.

Clerk: Amy McMullen asked for nominations. Elizabeth Burrows nominated Kris Garnjost; seconded by Beth Carter; motion passed.

Signer of Manifest: Amy McMullen asked for nominations. Nancy Pedrick nominated Bill Yates; seconded by Kris Garnjost; motion passed.

SU Bargaining Council: Amy McMullen asked for nominations. Bill Yates and Beth Carter will continue.

Truant Officer: Board appointed School Resource Officer, Paul Favreau.

Newspaper: Valley News, Eagle Times, Vermont Standard: The board will continue with these papers.

Windsor Improvement Corporation: Amy McMullen mentioned she has done it for Windsor Board and will continue.

Hartford Area Career and Tech Center: Kris Garnjost has done it for Windsor and will continue.

Time, Place, Date: Board will meet the 2nd Monday of each month at 6:30 PM, alternating schools.

**Public Participation:** None

**Minutes:** February 27

Amy McMullen asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Elizabeth Burrows moved; seconded by Kris Garnjost; motion passed with one abstention.

**Discussion Items:**

**Innovation Team:**

Elizabeth Burrows suggested having discussion around structure and creating a team to research the best way for innovation and then not have to do all the research. Amy McMullen mentioned setting best practice (what happening at other schools) and professional development. Non-voting team of people would be parents, community members, and staff members. Dave Baker mentioned he, Jenifer, and Tiffany met today and SU due for strategic plan update. Long range plans are good to have with teachers and board members. Elizabeth Burrows feels should take the next two months to plan out, invite people and looking down six years and invite one person who would agree to commit to the implementation of the group. Dave Baker feels need good facilitation (staff wants to participate). Bill Yates mentioned there are procedures and structures out there that the board can utilize. We need a balance between those with expertise in education and those in the greater community. Amy McMullen suggested Peter Clark as he has the background and had his own school. Dave Baker feels the SU Board should get in on this. Dave Baker will reach out to Peter and will talk to Ed Connors as to where can find reimbursement. Jenifer Aldrich mentioned could also look at Dartmouth for facilitator. Dave Baker mentioned can do research first or reach out to Peter. Elizabeth Burrows suggested the board take a month to see what is out there with research. The board will leave finding a facilitator to Dave Baker. Elizabeth Burrows mentioned it might be useful to invite people in the next few months and decide what we want them to produce. Ask them to produce after certain amount of time, present to us, community forum, and after a year ask them to commit to final recommendation. Dave Baker mentioned he would like to invite Peter to a meeting to lay out the expectations and where want to go. Elizabeth Burrows feels the board should discuss this next month and then invite Peter to the next meeting.

**Lunches:**

Dave Baker mentioned Cafe Services is willing to figure out a way to feed Albert Bridge students, to deliver, and serve lunches. They need to figure out new numbers as have to reconfigure contract. The cost maybe more about transporting. Let the company take care of things cited in the first year.

**Transportation:**

Amy McMullen mentioned we want to make sure everyone gets where they want to be. Dave Baker was going to look into this. The conversation was more in context of what would happen if opened up some sort of interschool. Can we get kids back and forth easily. General consensus in meeting with Jenifer and Tiffany was would not want to use proximity but rather have it cohabitation. We have the opportunity based on needs, proximity, siblings, and if had desire to go to one or the other school to let us know by a certain date. Mike mentioned this would not be any more cost. We will look at the amount of time West Windsor kids are on the bus. Elizabeth Burrows mentioned the bulk of the field trip expense is taken up by transportation. In the future will have discussion on how to refigure. Beth Carter asked, if a field trip, is there not a way to separate. This will be kept on the agenda. Dave Baker mentioned he,

Jenifer, and Tiffany are ready to present a proposal to the board which will include transportation.

#### Release Days:

Dave Baker mentioned this was the largest part of the conversation. This refers to weekly release days. This is all generated by contracts as all teachers under the same agreement. Staff are expected to work the same number of hours and students engaged the same amount of time. Windsor had teachers engaged in an instructional capacity for 20 minutes longer than Albert Bridge. This would not affect the start and end times of school. Windsor starts at 7:45 AM and Albert Bridge at 8:15. Teachers have to be engaged the same amount of time. We need to boost West Windsor up to 6 hours and 55 minutes of instructional time. School would possibly begin at 8:00 and end at 2:35. Both schools do not need to have the same start and end times. On release days Jenifer met with West Windsor staff as this is all new to Albert Bridge. Questions were around what happens with students when teachers engaged. General consensus is that value is given to all innovations and initiatives to having that release time for at least another year. Tiffany felt Windsor has enough activities if students did not want to go home. Dave Baker mentioned we would have a bus pick kids up and deliver to Windsor and be engaged in activities; such as, coding, math, homework club, craft club, makerspace. This also includes special education students with their aide. Tiffany will give a list of all options available. Elizabeth Burrows asked if teachers at Albert Bridge and Windsor would get together. Elizabeth feels it potentially is a lot of ask but if engaged in similar activities and then once a month meet together. There are things will have to do together. This gives teachers a lot of collaboration. Students would be dismissed at 12:30 once a week and discussing moving it to Friday. Kids would be engaged in an enrichment activity if wanted. We encourage as many kids to engage in these activities. High school students do sometimes help out with the activities.

Elizabeth Burrows asked what if Albert Bridge does not need a weekly meeting; is this contractual. What if not needed, and is contractual, is there another way to accommodate this. Jenifer Aldrich mentioned we see value. Concern is losing 60 minutes in a week, how much value, what is valuable for us, and discussion for staff. If given two hours once a week and what do with that and is there another way of doing this in professional learning communities. There is a need for flexible thinking but benefit in how share resources and progress. Windsor meets once a month as full staff and other time in grade level teams. Eventually will have to look at goals. We want to serve our communities. Teachers need to have a voice, grapple with it, and be engaged. Dave Baker asked if there is a critical mass that want it. Jenifer Aldrich mentioned Albert Bridge is willing to try it. Dave Baker feels it is contractual. Need to get something out to Albert Bridge parents. It is critical but need to make a decision and, because of contract, has to be across district. In year 1 is up to this board. In Windsor the first year people were not sure could engage students. Elizabeth Burrows mentioned for Albert Bridge kids feel it is great to bring them here doing enrichment activities. However, those are activities for Windsor School and curriculum not the same. Amy McMullen mentioned these are extra opportunities and not built into the curriculum and outside of the curriculum. Kris Garnjost mentioned this is bringing things to students that normally would not have. Dave Baker mentioned if decide to go with this people are hired for this. Jenifer Aldrich figures 25-30 students would want to participate.

High School Specific Policies:

Elizabeth Burrows mentioned she saw only one that could not be adopted across the SU and was school lunch policy. Beth Carter mentioned students have a card and parents go online to add to it. Kris Garnjost mentioned at times some balances have been paid down by other people.

**Action Items:**

Amy McMullen asked for a motion that the Mount Ascutney School District will offer retirement plans through the Vermont Municipal Employee Retirement Services (VMERS). The School District will participate in the Vermont Municipal Group A and defined contribution plans. Kris Garnjost moved; seconded by Nancy Pedrick; motion passed.

**Agenda:** April 8

Lunches

Innovation Team

Transportation

Early Release Days

High School Policies

**Adjournment:**

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Tessier, Board Secretary