

**Windsor/West Windsor Board Meeting
Draft Minutes
August 27, 2018**

Present: Amy McMullen, Elizabeth Burrows, Beth Carter, Nancy Pedrick, Kris Garnjost

Not Present: Bill Yates

Meeting called to order at 6:37 PM.

Minutes - July 16, 2018

Amy McMullen moved; seconded by Kris Garnjost; motion passed.

Discussion Items:

Vision Statement:

Windsor/West Windsor Board working on our vision, mission, and goals.

Windsor School Vision: Windsor School District leads the community in educating students to become responsible, caring, and contributing members of a changing global society.

Albert Bridge Vision: We encourage and enable our community of children, teachers, and families to respect and cherish what is unique and of value in themselves and in others; to do good for our world through lifelong intellectual and personal growth; to enjoy freedom through active, reflective, creative learning; and to lead healthy, productive, and meaningful lives that authentically reflect the very best in each of them.

Vision: board role: You adopt vision and how get there is range of ways. The Board will work together tonight to develop a vision statement and share with the community and adjust if necessary. Your role is at the forefront.

Superintendent: once vision established you turn to the superintendent for performance indicators and know what progress is: strategic plan, Continuous Improvement Plan, use vision in managing staff, guiding decisions, and support that vision. You want to make sure the administration is on board with what doing. Best practices and laws as they change may change the vision.

Think of ways the world may have changed since you were a student. With technology much easier to falsify materials. Now need a well-rounded education (most work is now team oriented); memorizing poetry is good; changes in social structure (seems like single parent households are the norm and not questioned family structure, blended families, same sex parent (we are more open minded); we have no patience anymore as want things now. The way we interact with people has changed a lot. No one memorizes phone numbers, just look in the phone book. Categorize ourselves differently and have richer identity. Faster to judge than it used to be and is unfortunate. No culture of accountability for younger generation.

Dave Baker mentioned the transition to world economy, low skill jobs not there anymore; much higher demand for skilled people. Skills have changed for students and with social media the less connected we are with the world.

How hard has it been to incorporate changes into your own life? We are adapting. Nancy Pedrick mentioned not hard as comes gradually. Tiffany Cassano mentioned things have changed rapidly and think of the role of teachers and things a lot different from their training. Individual priorities are changing. Asking teachers to be moderators of a group these days. Tiffany Cassano mentioned lose creativity around grades 3/4 as this is when SBAC comes in. It reflects on kids and teachers. Need to find balance, reduce value of test. When kids engaged, creativity when take SBAC will do good as thinking, have more confidence, and not feeling pressured.

What do we want kids to achieve? Nancy Pedrick mentioned some cannot or will not. Elizabeth Burrows mentioned every type of learner adds value to the classroom. Diversity of learners adds value to the classroom. Kris Garnjost mentioned can have vision where achieve in own way. Elizabeth Burrows mentioned everyone has the potential and we want kids to live up to their potential.

Vision encompasses: want students to know, want them to be able to do, what experiences do we want them to have/

Reflection:

- what is focus on students learning, reflect community values, open minded about school, current educational research
- Creative mindset that allows a person to apply what know appropriately to variety of topics -- problem solving.
- Responsibility and self as a team
- Understanding history to the present and what do in present has consequence to future
- Global connectedness.
- Healthy minds, healthy bodies.
- Team oriented, project based learning
- Adaptive well rounded foundation of learning; dance instruction, not just technology
- Empathy
- Students know each other well and feel free to pursue own creative and intellectual interests (self-directed and self-aware)
- Self confidence in importance of their own impact on the world
- Improve on productive or failure, understanding tools and how to use them, life skills, sense of purpose that help achieve
- Importance of community, involved in community
- Importance of diversity to learning

Things that belong:

Problem solving, creative mindset, understand, connect history, present, future; productive failure; team project based/collaboration, responsibility-self and others; self-direct, self-confidence, self-aware, community involvement (global); life skills/sense of purpose, adaptable well rounded, empathy, diversity to learning; freedom of expression.

Kris Garnjost mentioned the challenge is how do we put it in a couple of sentences. Elizabeth Burrows mentioned possibly consider writing out a list of things we value. Susan Holson mentioned if strong vision statement and have that at top of every agenda. Dave Baker mentioned is board vision but what see happen the board share with staff but this is not the staff's vision. Amy McMullen mentioned this is providing the direction. Elizabeth Burrows mentioned how does it relate to the SU vision/mission. SU is level of curriculum and support services. Susan Holson mentioned you are working in this realm and hope will go out to other communities. Write out value statements and use as springboard and maybe at that level check in with community and check in with SU board and/or other districts and does this speak to them and do they want to add. Elizabeth Burrows mentioned the Continuous Improvement Plan is disconnected as written at SU level and district come up with own and different missions and going in different directions. Dave Baker mentioned worked in administrative team on goals and strategies and then wrote school goals according to that. Tiffany Cassano mentioned a little different language but all aligned. Susan Holson mentioned can take place in goals which are building specific. Elizabeth Burrows mentioned if goals written at SU and reflect SU vision and goals and at the school should reflect the district vision. Amy McMullen mentioned we want the best for all of our kids and the SU would not advocate for something not good for all our kids. As a district we care for all kids. Elizabeth Burrows mentioned the new district is taking K-12 and looking at what we want them to have when leave school. Susan Holson mentioned this exercise and vision may speak to SU and sometimes even within the building. How do you involve your community? Tiffany Cassano mentioned last year all teachers came up with learning strategies that all students should know when get out of high school which are:

- Habits of Learning (growth mindset, preparedness, self-direction)
- Problem Solving (inquiry, understand problem, brainstorming, analysis, choosing and implement approach, reflection, mathematical fluency)
- Innovation and creativity (perspective, connection, creative expression, flexibility, risk taking, digital literacy)
- Collaboration and Communication (collaborative discussion, interpersonal communication, poise, presentation)
- Literacy (reading - disposition, vocabulary, analysis, interpretation; writing - evidence, organization, voice and tone)
- Health & Wellness (contribution and service, diversity appreciation, responsibility, sustainability, nutrition, physical activity)

For West Windsor the perspective is different as now own a high school. Elizabeth Burrows mentioned could send out a survey and see what they value . Kris Garnjost mentioned we want the community to understand our vision but if go to community could be a lot of interpretation. We are trustees of this situation and we should use our thoughts and knowledge. Susan Holson mentioned what if did community survey and working on vision and we, as a board, what do we value.

Tiffany Cassano mentioned we have to come up with proficiency based learning skills for high school students. Elizabeth Burrows mentioned work goes along with where we are but vision takes it to what do you want student to look like.

Elizabeth Burrows mentioned we need to make sure when do vision statement that keeping in mind whole district. Nancy Pedrick mentioned maybe send vision statement and graphics. Dave Baker feels the board responsibility is to craft the statement. Elizabeth Burrows feels as kids participate in higher levels of their education they should be part of the vision statement.

Budget Process:

Dave Baker mentioned the SU will start developing budget and this group will be developing a joint budget. The budget process should spring off the vision but may not have all goals in place.

Elizabeth Burrows asked if anyone wanted to take a stab at the vision statement should send write-up to Dave by the end of the second week so by next meeting time have things to work on.

Agenda: September 24, 6:30 PM, at Albert Bridge.

- Vision
- Budget
- Naming Process

Amy McMullen reminded the board members that the VSBA Regional Meeting is September 11, 5:30, at Windsor School in Room 210.

Adjournment:

Amy McMullen moved to adjourn'; seconded by Kris Garnjost; motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,'

Diane Tessier, Board Secretary