

**WSSU Board
Draft Minutes
May 8, 2019**

Present: Colleen Spence, Anne Redmond, Scott Richardson, Amy McMullen, Elizabeth Burrows, Bill Yates, Nancy Pedrick, Sean Whalen, Angie Ladeau, Dave Baker

Not Present: Nicole Buck, Jacqui Antonivich, Kris Garnjost

Guest: Kim Duprey

Meeting called to order at 6:36 PM

Additions/Corrections: Lunch Debt; Continuous Improvement Plan, Policies

Public Comments: Kim Duprey, parent from Weathersfield will speak later

Minutes: April 4

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

Discussion Items:

Solar:

Amy McMullen mentioned at Windsor the seniors do a Capstone Project and select a topic they have a passion in and spend a full semester doing research and putting together a project. One presented on solar and the possibility of having solar on the roof of Windsor High School. The student brought with her professional people who also spoke. Dave Baker mentioned there will be more information in June as bids will be back. The bid documents were geared toward a company that could work and consult with us whether have own array or buy into net metering as have cost analyses. We expect bids from five or six local companies. Elizabeth Burrows asked if just Windsor or all schools. Dave Baker mentioned we put in all our schools. Hartland and Albert Bridge have net metering and not sure if covering all utilities. Scott Richardson mentioned should check for Hartland to see if best deal. Elizabeth Burrows mentioned West Windsor entered into an agreement. Nancy Pedrick asked if district or the SU pays. Dave Baker mentioned would be an assessment to all districts. According to presentation there are no upfront or ongoing costs. The savings is from the payback. The finalists will come in and talk to us or come to a carousel meeting. Nancy Pedrick asked if have to be voted on by town. Dave Baker stated no that as an entity you can vote. Weathersfield Town Manager called that they are looking into an array and we possibly could look into net metering with them. If net zero cost we would not have to budget. At this level you could authorize me to enter into net metering. As Hartland and West Windsor has this we have written this caveat into the agreement. Scott Richardson mentioned If restrictions on SU entering into this, something where buying a service, caution in direction on no ownership direction as bigger paybacks if own the array. Dave Baker mentioned three districts can own. Scott Richardson mentioned may not own panels. Bill Yates mentioned it depends on how net metering is organized. What doing is borrowing money from a company and pay same amount that pay for electricity to pay

off the loan. Once paid off get all electricity. You cannot sell the power. For school district would not have enough solar panels. Elizabeth Burrows mentioned in West Windsor the excess is given to the power company and donated to the town. Power has to be spoken for by someone else. Dave Baker mentioned Hartland is hydro dam. We need to work with a consultant. Sean Whalen mentioned in Weathersfield we have person standing up at Town Meeting saying do solar and she has persisted and respect that. Now we are doing that.

Student Agreement:

Dave Baker mentioned received several agreements. Usually the notification from parent to district is in late March early April. Do we want to do a limited form or maybe not at all. This was discussed at the Weathersfield meeting Monday. Kim Duprey is here as a parent. It could be for many reasons that would like child in another school; such as, child care or proximity to where work. Do we have any interest? Sean Whalen feels this should be a case-by-case basis. Anne Redmond feels should not be a random lottery. Dave Baker mentioned should have something written out and the sending and receiving board should weigh in. The key is that not exchanging money. Transportation is not our responsibility. Amy McMullen mentioned in Windsor a couple students went to Albert Bridge and Windsor has taken students and the school did not transport. Dave Baker will draft a specific request for a specific school. Scott Richardson mentioned glad to hear other discussions and reason to question our equity and why students feel better somewhere else. What's happening at home district or neighboring district. Any limit is nothing I can accept and perhaps altruistic to say a limiting factor is no money exchanged. I do not see why keep track of money and where it goes. Amy McMullen mentioned perception in Windsor paying tuition to another town when we have a K-12. Dave Baker mentioned the law does not support it. By law not obligated to pay tuition to another school if that town operates that grade. Bill Yates mentioned schools receive block grant based on ADM. Dave Baker mentioned the high school choice bill is why decided to derail any exchange of tuition. Dave agrees on no limitation and school's ability to handle. Scott Richardson feels is should be up to the administrative team and superintendent and towns should be kept in the loop. If superintendent and principal feel can handle and reasons meet a certain criteria but want to avoid disgruntled parent from keep changing.

Bill Yates mentioned when deal with budgeting and looking at five students and in a particular grade level this shifts the dynamics of staffing. That shift makes a huge difference on cost of running a school. Scott Richardson mentioned works better if no boundary lines between schools; such as, Ascutney district with intrachoice. Bill Yates mentioned largest concern is that did not like numbers as a limit and we are very late in the game. This requires time, thought, and investigation. Amy McMullen mentioned if a family needed something right now would come down to a case-by-case basis. Dave Baker feels that need something written out. Bill Yates mentioned may not be policy but a procedure. Dave Baker feels if some authorization to do this need sign off and vote by all board chairs.

Kim Duprey spoke on why she feels intra-school choice is important for many reasons. Could be social uneasiness, struggling academically, or medical need. Feel in district there are enough resources that can be met and do not have to be uncomfortable. It has to be what is in the best interest of the child. Likes the idea of keeping money in our district. Kids should not have to feel uncomfortable or parents uncomfortable addressing something.

Elizabeth Burros asked if there is anything that governs intradistrict sports. Dave Baker mentioned at the middle school level operate under the Vermont Principal's Association and it states a student has to play for their school unless not enough numbers to run a team. Some students will not sign up depending on coach. In Windsor or Hartland K-6 is run by Rec Center. Dave Baker will rework and make more flexible and case-by-case specific. Will talk to principals about this. Sean Whalen mentioned on sports things our board in process of working on this as athletics brought to our attention and trying to figure out the best way. I'm sure other schools have athletic issues and Weathersfield in phase of having intramural or thinking about rec program. Wonder if at some point if other districts interested in having a unified approach dealing with athletics. Amy McMullen mentioned would not try to have something school based at early ages. Sean Whalen asked how smaller communities deal with this. Amy McMullen mentioned in the past some kids from Cornish, West Windsor, and Reading have played on rec center teams. Scott Richardson mentioned if a sport not offered at a school much easier for a co-op. Dave Baker mentioned Weathersfield is searching for an Athletic Director to handle athletics K-8. It might be worth a conversation with a larger rec department especially with younger grades.

CIP:

Angie Ladeau mentioned it is due now and should be longer process in writing it. Rewrote some strategies and added some. It is required for consolidated federal money. State has limited us to four goals. Phase 1 is the same. Root cause analysis is academic proficiency 1 and 2. Academic proficiency has to be one of our goals and one has to address safe and healthy schools. Developing learning targets and goals and first step in developing proficiencies. Developing within course and unit and then will develop K-8. What added is strategic planning process and hiring consultants who have done this system. Would like to pay stipends for teachers to do work in the summer and not pay per diem (which is very expensive), as currently done, for curriculum work. Teachers are eager to do the work.

Standards based grading is not proficiency based grading. Very critical work and teachers pushing us on this. Looking at standards and is standard informed. Bill Yates mentioned standards is a grading system and to make proficiency based have to set up learning targets and benchmarks. Angie Ladeau mentioned we need teachers to do this. We want students to tell parents what will do to achieve higher grade.

Safe and healthy school is Tier 2 system of support. The grant pays for summer school programs. We are working with a consultant to offer professional development to teachers to help access classroom easier. State coming out with guide for tier level of support.

Goal 3 - trauma informed practices. Being trained by Dave Melnick and two staff going to level 2. Need to train staff and what model will look like. Concerned about mental health of staff as deals with lives of children and how support children. Wellness Committee organizing a Wellness Day in March and will support with additional funds.

Parental Engagement: Requires more evidence based projects. Kindergarten readiness materials going home with incoming students in three of four buildings.

Policy Work:

All policies reviewed. What point make final decision. Elizabeth Burrows mentioned will be in June. Amy McMullen mentioned all these policies will apply to all of these schools. Looking at other library policies and what if someone challenges, is not just what is within the library but what is within the teacher's room. Important that there be a policy. There is a policy from the American Library Association that covers this. Scott Richardson mentioned as there are so many forms of information the policy should be clear.

The policies the board members reviewed should go to Nicole Buck.

Lunch Debt:

Dave Baker mentioned should go back to boards and talk about it and make final decision in June. There is no consistency on lunch debt. Not sure if software program is user friendly enough. What disturbing to administrators is essentially a lunch debt and way to get payment should never be to deny a child a regular meal. Zero tolerance on denying a lunch. Administrators want direction if SU level or school level.

Amy McMullen asked for a motion to never deny a student a Type A lunch for school lunch related debt: Bill Yates moved; seconded by Nancy Pedrick. Scott Richardson asked why the meal program has to make money and is not in budget. Amy McMullen mentioned would like it to break even. If philosophy of district have a line item for lunch program and that provides money then one thing, but has not been. Scott Richardson mentioned it stops short and not enough community eligibility to go universal. Bill Yates mentioned the issue comes down to state funding regulations and if took risk on exceeding per pupil cost of educating a student the district is penalized. Anne Redmond asked are parents explained the free lunch form and get help filling it out. Motion passed.

New Business:

Scott Richardson mentioned sometimes have a hard time getting quorum and planning next meeting, maybe correct thing to do is always have a polling process on deciding next meeting. Should we agree upon? Amy McMullen mentioned at reorganizational meeting it was stated when meeting would be and is part of public record.

Amy McMullen mentioned that Wednesdays will not work for her anymore. She either would need to resign or change meeting time. Nancy Pedrick moved to meet the third Monday of the month beginning in June at 6:30; seconded by Colleen Spence; motion passed.

Scott Richardson asked about the website and has not heard anything more. Dave Baker mentioned we have a webmaster on staff and website is due to be redesigned and was waiting for the merger. Scott Richardson asked if there was a process to fix something. Dave Baker mentioned to e-mail helpdesk@wsesu.net.

Resignations/Retirement:

Resignations: Diane Tessier, Nicole Perra

Retirements: Dianne Waters, Neal Cronce

Amy McMullen asked for a motion to approve the resignations and retirements. Scott Richardson moved; seconded by Nancy Pedrick; motion passed.

Around the SU:

Nancy Pedrick mentioned the all district concert was wonderful and hope they do it every year. Great that teachers participated in jazz band.

Windsor performing Peter Pan this weekend.

Weathersfield having dance and play performance.

Hartland community forum tomorrow night with focus on what you want from the district, equitable opportunity, and challenges the last couple months.

Next Agenda:

Solar Update

Policies

Interdistrict Choice

Year End from Schools - have principals come

Evaluation Process Discussion

Adjournment:

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:09 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Tessier, Board Secretary