

**WSSU Board  
Draft Minutes  
March 25, 2019**

**Present:** Amy McMullen, Elizabeth Burrows, Nancy Pedrick, Beth Carter, Bill Yates, Kris Garnjost, Nicole Buck, Colleen Spence, Scott Richardson, Sean Whalen, Jacqui Antonivich, David Baker

**Others:** Sarah Stewart Taylor, Susan Hindinger, Kristen Bruso, Jenifer Aldrich, Christine Bourne

Student, Christina Gregory, gave her Capstone presentation on solar at the school to the board.

Steve Snyder from Norwich Solar also attended the meeting along with others from that company and talked briefly about solar.

Dave Baker called the meeting to order at 7:19 PM.

There are three members from each town on the board along with the six members of the Mount Ascutney Board.

**Reorganization:**

**Chair:** Dave Baker asked for nominations. Beth Carter nominated Amy McMullen; seconded by Nicole Buck; motion passed.

**Vice Chair:** Amy McMullen asked for nominations. Scott Richardson nominated Elizabeth Burrows; seconded by Sean Whalen; motion passed.

**Clerk:** Amy McMullen asked for nominations. Elizabeth Burrows nominated Scott Richardson; seconded by Nicole Buck; motion passed.

**Treasurer:** Amy McMullen asked for nominations. Elizabeth Burrows nominated Sean Whalen; seconded by Nicole Buck; motion passed.

**Signer of the Manifest:** Amy McMullen asked for nominations. Elizabeth Burrows nominated Bill Yates; Scott Richardson nominated Colleen Spence as back up; motion passed.

**Budget Committee Members:** Nicki Buck and Bill Yates volunteered.

**Newspapers:** The board will stay with Valley News, Eagles Times, and Vermont Standard.

**Meeting Day, Time, Place:** First Wednesday, 6:30 PM, alternating schools.

Nicki Buck asked about rotating as she feels Windsor is a central location. It was decided the meetings will rotate. Nancy Pedrick asked with Carousel meetings could the SU meeting be first and then go to into individual towns. Bill Yates mentioned what doing is not exactly

carousel but doing two meetings in a row (local and SU). Scott Richardson mentioned local board members do stay for SU meeting. Bill Yates feels if want to do occasionally to then invite other members. Elizabeth Burrows feels should leave optional if want a local meeting on the same day as the SU meeting. Scott Richardson mentioned this saves the administration a night out. Kris Garnjost mentioned with Carousel everything happened on the same night and now not talking about doing that. Dave Baker mentioned the way it was supposed to work was on month have carousel do not have meeting with individual board.

Beth Carter asked what is the difference with SU vs. Carousel. Christine Bourne mentioned administrators did not go to SU meetings. Nicki Buck feels more engaged conversation and more bodies. At SU meetings feels conversation goes on but do not hear as many voices. Nicki likes the idea of carousel and then board meetings as there are executive things that have to happen. Bill Yates feels should look at it during the school year doing quarterly meetings. Have it on the regular SU meeting night. That would eliminate the time the regular school board would meet that month. Susan Hindinger asked difference from regular as all school boards participate. In the SU portion any voting is only SU members that could vote. Bill Yates mentioned the way carousel is supposed to work is have topics presented to full board, then individual boards discuss as it relates to town, and then whole board discusses and votes. Dave Baker mentioned there would be a few topics that get together to discuss, go into individual board meetings and then come back. Karen Woolsey mentioned such as; developing budget, visions and go in and out of meeting. Dave Baker feels sometimes have to share with principal and if all getting same information at same time is of value. Amy McMullen feels if meet quarterly then can plan those topics that are pertinent. The next carousel meeting is in June.

#### **Additions/Changes:**

Elizabeth Burrows would like to add Dr. Baker's evaluation, goal setting for the year, possibility of video conferencing, and introduce time for teachers to discuss policies.

#### **Video Conferencing:**

Amy McMullen mentioned video conferencing is possible. As is a public board and open meeting law there has to be a set space for this to happen. Elizabeth Burrows feels we have technology people that can set this up. Colleen Spence asked if there could be issues around voting. Amy McMullen mentioned is a roll call vote.

#### **Evaluation:**

Amy McMullen mentioned she will be sharing the document for Dave's evaluation with the board chairs who will share with board members. Elizabeth Burrows mentioned we had discussed and then the question on executive committee was brought up and never resolved. Amy McMullen mentioned we will do this as an entire board after individual boards look at it.

#### **Goal Setting:**

Amy McMullen mentioned we will be having a retreat with goal setting. Elizabeth Burrows feels we look at goals once a year and never see anything updated and board should see how progressing. Elizabeth would like to see how this works into the actual goals for administrators at the SU level and how are they evaluated. Amy McMullen mentioned we never have had

quarterly goals. Angie Ladeau mentioned the improvement plan does not work with the strategic plan. Personal goals are roles in our jobs and part of supervision and evaluation for the professional staff. Elizabeth Burrows asked then we evaluate Dave Baker on what basis? Beth Carter mentioned need specific goals and everyone must be measured by those goals and should see them monthly. Amy McMullen mentioned as far as teacher performance it might happen one year or every two or three years. Dave Baker feels everyone should have goals and this can be worked out. Beth Carter feels goals should be a standing agenda item every month as to where we are. Elizabeth Burrows feels can then take back to individual boards.

Scott Richardson feels solar should be agenda item. Scott mentioned he heard a little of what going on and asked if anyone had experience with home or business. Scott mentioned he has experience at the farm with a club. Having presenters and cost of panels it is all very important and before that should discuss needs and goal setting. When evaluate site may find out that perhaps best site is somewhere else and more usage elsewhere. If in a club panels are put where need to be and interested in being part of that. Amy McMullen mentioned need a lot more conversations. Kris Garnjost mentioned need to do an RFP. Dave Baker mentioned these people wanted to do a presentation. Next step would be an RFP. Do you want us to continue to do the research? Scott Richardson mentioned with exploration process need a meeting with operators and deciding who work with. Kris Garnjost mentioned we do not choose who we want to work with first, have to figure out what want and then put out to bid.

Amy McMullen mentioned the Vermont School Boards Association is doing another series of workshops about new board members. Amy McMullen mentioned the webinar is on April 6 and 7.

#### Policies:

Nicole Buck mentioned the committee met and took all comments from you on what thought and compared to recommended policies and what want to revise, what match with VSBA, and ones want to get rid of. We will present at the next meeting.

#### Student Agreement:

Dave Baker mentioned this was a conversation about creating interdistrict choice for elementary students. Will bring template to the next meeting.

Resignations: Nicole Gay, Payroll; Tracy Sampson and Lauren Heidelmeier; Paras.

Amy McMullen asked for a motion to accept the resignations with regret. Kris Garnjost moved; seconded by Nancy Pedrick; motion passed.

Elizabeth Burrows mentioned during contract negotiations teachers brought things up that should not have been in contract. There could be a policy that covers everyone. Strong possibility that teachers cannot vet policies to SU Board around complaints about working conditions. If policy in place teachers cannot grieve the problem and importance of teacher input in policies. This is something to consider for teachers to give suggestions to policies to SU Board. Dave Baker mentioned all boards are sunseting policies and going to what we have set. Nicki Buck mentioned the goal is having an SU policy book. We need to limit and have mechanism in place for teachers to discuss policies. Elizabeth Burrows mentioned community

members can make suggestions to policies. Dave Baker mentioned question is how orchestrate this. We need to define scope. Elizabeth Burrows mentioned it is not unheard of but not around here. Jacqui Antonivich asked wouldn't this go to administrator meeting a month instead of SU board. Kris Garnjost mentioned there should be an interim step if policy or not. Elizabeth Burrows feels the board should consider this. Dave Baker mentioned the board should talk about the process of developing policies.

**Agenda:** May 8

Solar

Dave's Evaluation (executive session)

Student Agreement

The SU board will meet Wednesday April 3 to discuss policies, 6:00 PM, SU Office.

**Adjournment:**

Amy McMullen asked for a motion to adjourn. Sean Whalen moved; seconded by Nicole Buck; motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:49 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Tessier, Board Secretary