

**WSESU Board Carousel Meeting  
Draft Minutes  
October 1, 2018**

**Present:** Amy McMullen, Kris Garnjost, Nicki Buck, Sarah Stewart Taylor, Heidi Remick, Sean Whalen, Bill Yates, Elizabeth Burrows, Nancy Pedrick, Scott Richardson, Colleen Spence, JeanMarie Oakman, Tiffany Cassano, Christine Bourne, Angie Ladeau, Dave Baker, Ed Connors

**Not Present:** Beth Carter, Jacqui Antonivich, Sherrie Greeley, Carl Malikowski

Called to order at 7:13 PM.

**Minutes:** September 4

Amy McMullen asked for a motion to approve the minutes of September 4. Sarah Stewart Taylor moved; seconded by Nicole Buck; motion passed with one abstention.

**Changes/Additions:** None

**Public Participation:** None

**Discussion Items:**

SU Budget: Ed Connors

Dave Baker mentioned formed an SU budget committee and met twice. We went over pieces that drive the local assessment. No decisions tonight, push off to November or have a special meeting. Two proposals in budget and potentially a third. 1. Additional business office person; 2. Technology equipment and software to the SU. Other expenses are looking at line items and built in wage and salary increases as going into negotiations. Looked at revenue line items and know special education will increase. Cornish reached out to us for their technology needs. Those revenues should be in the technology budget. We talked about expanding technology services; such as, Plainfield School and Town of Windsor are interested.

Preliminary Assessments:

Proposing \$737,085 and is due in part to that last part of technology left at school districts was capital equipment and put all in SU and assessed back to school by equalized pupil. Bill Yates mentioned what exactly paying for is maintenance of computers and is a small piece. Windsor is at the end of an upgrade and Weathersfield and Hartland at the beginning of an upgrade. Nicole Buck mentioned Windsor is spending more than the other three schools and going forward need to justify this to voters. Larry Dougher mentioned that Windsor upgrade was over the last several years. Hartland and Weathersfield are holding course and not spending as much. Larry Dougher and Christine Bourne talked that right in line with what the percentage share would be. Going forward easy to justify to voters and share resources and computers. Sarah Stewart Taylor asked if Windsor would go down and Weathersfield and Hartland will go up. Nicole Buck mentioned looking at broader picture and sharing resources and equipment. Bill Yates mentioned when look at software costs is better to look at district standpoint and not school. Look at savings overall versus school shifting away from school and shift towards SU technology goals. Nicole Buck asked Larry about technology goals and visions and all have same ones but in different places. Larry Dougher mentioned Windsor hosts a lot of the services

provided to the others. Bill Yates is pleased that Larry and the technology department are doing things cost effectively. Giving students and teachers technology needs in an economical way. Dave Baker mentioned can stream. Colleen Spence mentioned if made move from Windsor perspective they no longer control the ends. If in SU we all make decisions on being cut or increased. If stay 1:1 chromebook maybe can pass on equipment instead of buying new. Larry Dougher mentioned in meeting with all four principals and sharing their needs and Windsor has done that and given equipment to others.

Sean Whalen mentioned not able to attend either budget committee meeting but we discussed in meeting that in budget time last year and had to come back and cut something so not get tax increase and cut \$10,000 to not buy new chromebooks and Weathersfield Spanish program cut. Talking to principal at school but cutting \$10,000 to buy new chromebooks no one feels that. Not sure all have same technology vision. Our assessment goes up \$44,000 and look at what we are spending on capital equipment.

Sarah Stewart Taylor asked for numbers showing cost shift. Good to show us this. Larry Dougher was going to put numbers together looking globally.

This is comparing last year's assessment.

Central office up 10.74%. Part health insurance and projected 11.8% increase and adding a position.

2006 – budget was \$328,995

2019 - budget is \$4,389,785 and increased number on payroll from 13 to 350.

Happened to stay with staffing level. Affordable care act implementation and now self-insured and inherited administrative coverage. Implementation of state mandated uniform chart of accounts (all charts of accounts are obsolete and make so looking at something different). All expenses, elementary or secondary, will be implemented by 2020 and state does not have a uniform chart yet. We have to comply with the Child Nutrition Office regulations. State mandated financial accounting software efinance. State selected new vendor and not going smoothly.

Sean Whalen mentioned that last month voted to spend \$60,000 to hire another employee for the business office but not as a permanent position. The way I understood was to comply with state mandates. You would think state mandates are meant to save money in the long run and the extent was to help us through this transition period. That being done shouldn't some of the pressure be off.

Special Education:

Revenues are going up. Entire budget up 5%. We do not have equalized pupil numbers but will get those in December. Ed Connors mentioned school districts want a number they can rely on for assessments. Districts last year approved the budget with the caveat that could be changes. Increase includes bringing in technology hardware in the district and 11% jump in health care. The committee will meet again and look at numbers.

Curriculum Update: Larry Dougher

Standard based grading and Angie was not very involved. Elementary was doing before this. Slowly made transition with middle school and grade 9, and this year grades 10-12. Issues are around calculations. Report accurately to parents and kids how performing. For the high school how are we communicating to colleges and post-secondary institutions how project based learning goes into a grade.

Larry showed the report card. Under the domains are standards. Staff prioritizing standards and coming up with anchor standards. Angie Ladeau gives standards to Larry to input into the system.

Calculated: standard based grade committee bring to teachers. Reading and write to 1000. Thinking if can read and write to 1000 that learning goes up. What matters that know it. It is most recent three assessments. Teachers staying with mean.

Domain is the average of all standards under that domain and then get the mean average. In 7th grade put a grade in the domain.

Bill Yates asked if PowerSchool had average as final options. Report card calculations are standard. In high school have common core grade and in science receive a technical grade and weighed as half of each domain. Dave Baker mentioned this is a large shift in teaching around performance in a standard area. Bill Yates asked about staff development to teach core assessments. Angie mentioned the staff knows summative and informative but need to work on how grade calculated in grade level. We are moving on to working on bench marks and scoring rubrics, what proficiency means, and looking at student work together to make sure what is proficient in one school is the same in another school. Elizabeth Burrows asked about transferable skills, are they still part of the report card. Larry Dougher mentioned on digital report card and can make it a pop up to break it out. The Principals would like to see it broken out by student.

Sarah Stewart Taylor mentioned a complaint that parents do not understand the context around which a proficiency score is given. Angie Ladeau mentioned the best way is to have a conversation with the teacher. College will look at the whole package and not what just shows up on the report card or transcript. Colleges know a schools program.

Dave Baker mentioned having a conversation and want motivation and how excel. Make it clear to them and what would the four look like. Bill Yates mentioned looking at skill level development.

Worked on power standards and based on what is the key in the contents area. Looked at standards, common core, science, and four c's. Social Studies was done late in the school year. We postponed work on Social Studies and developed curriculum. What is taught is whole collection of standards and substandard that feed into standards.

Developed domains: habits of learning - innovation and creativity; literacy, problem solving; collaboration; communication; health and wellness. Evolving work currently and grade level teams taking domains and subdomains and looking at what looks like in grade span.

Fall:

- Learning expectations scoring rubrics

- Curriculum maps for grade levels -- add learning expectations and students explicitly taught, practice, and assessed on it.
- Align learning expectations across grade level - high school joining in and doing work.
- Writing student - language rubrics (student oriented and student friendly express what able to learn). How do kids and parents understand

Working on language for grading of standards and want students to achieve level.

Winter:

- How do we know what students have learned (choose common assessment and have them write problems)
- Scoring rubrics
- Personalization (next step and more time at end of year, how get students engaged in learning, and meet proficiency)

Spring:

- Professional Development on universal design for learning
- Reflection on power standards
- Trauma transformed course. There are 25 people doing course and done by January. Will be SU wide inservice on this and how transform whole system

Angie Ladeau mentioned want to have discussion on what one student learns one way and import conversations in classrooms.

VSBA Meeting: Amy McMullen

There are 19 resolutions to be voted on. Each SU has one vote. Hoping that boards will have an opportunity to see what resolutions are and decide at what level.

Negotiations Timeline: Dave Baker

Organized meeting with association and meeting set for end of October to go over ground rules and what bring to table. Heidi Remick is the spokesperson for the board.

**Agenda:** November 5

Budget

Carousel Discussion - Meeting format

Special Education Update

**Adjournment:**

Amy McMullen has for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sean Whalen moved; seconded by Kris Garnjost; motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Tessier, Board Secretary