

Mount Ascutney School Board
Approved Minutes
August 12, 2019

Present: Amy McMullen, Elizabeth Burrows, Bill Yates, Kris Garnjost, Nancy Pedrick, Jenifer Aldrich, Tiffany Riley

Not Present: Beth Carter

Meeting called to order at 6:31 PM.

Additions/Corrections: Superintendent David Baker will not be at meeting until later so postponing solar update until he arrives.

Public Participation: None

Announcements and Celebratory Remarks from Board Members: Amy McMullen mentioned that fun to see Facebook posts for Wilderness Outing Team. Tiffany Riley mentioned Chris Lord has written a grant to support an outing club and has gone on eight different hikes. Kris Garnjost is impressed by entryway. Amy McMullen asked if there will be more new tile throughout the school. Tiffany Riley mentioned just the entryway.

Discussion Items:

Portrait of Graduate:

Jenifer Aldrich mentioned the admin team met with specialist over retreat and Elizabeth, Shawn, Amy and Nicki joined us. They walked us through a smaller version to start thinking where heading. skills, character component are just as important. Need to get key players on board from the community. Tiffany Riley mentioned they talked about great books to read and focusing on skill development. How we know what a program should look like, help kids prepare for the unknown. When the actual design team gets together every member will have a common understanding of the purpose and where going. We will be selecting preliminary dates next Monday when Portrait of Graduate meets with admin team. One time per month the whole team will get together from 5-8 PM. Time intensive once get going from September to January. The team should consist of 50-60 people with 50% community and students and 50% school, teachers and board members. Kris Garnjost feels the key is getting everyone involved to create what you want.

There was some discussion about if Weathersfield is on board after SU Meeting. Elizabeth Burrows feels may have been unfair as there was no conversation with any other place. Tiffany Riley mentioned Terrin is middle school and we wanted something K-12. Jenifer Aldrich and Tiffany Riley asked if they should find the community members. Bill Yates feels it would be great if the admin team had all principals reach out to community members. Elizabeth Burrows will work with Jenifer Aldrich on community members for West Windsor. Kris Garnjost feels an announcement should be put out to community as looking for people to be involved in this. Bill Yates feels should get someone from Mount Ascutney Hospital with general knowledge of what it takes to be a functioning institute like that. Kris Garnjost suggested someone from Mount

Ascutney Prevention Partnership. Nancy Pedrick has concerns about the length of the meetings for an extended time period. Kris Garnjost suggested recruiting more for the first meeting as an introductory meeting on these things and get people talking and sharing ideas. Tiffany Riley mentioned the consultant has figured out ways for connections to keep people's interest. Elizabeth Burrows suggested the Regional Planning Committee? Bill Yates mentioned in West Windsor there are individuals who work in assorted businesses in the Upper Valley. Kris Garnjost mentioned some of the organizations; such as, Mount Ascutney Trails Alliance, m Rotary, Historical Society, Chambers of Commerce. Amy McMullen mentioned there be a structure and a schedule with a real outcome. Looking for people to serve on the committee should be advertised in Windsor Towns Newsletter, Front Porch Forum, and Windsor on Air. Kris Garnjost mentioned if we do not encourage and invite them they will not show up. Elizabeth Burrows mentioned she attended a Regional Planning Commission meeting tying efforts together and the first meeting was very well attended by a variety of business owners. First meeting was to organize and the second one was a mixer and was not organized and many left right away.

Tiffany Riley mentioned the first meeting is scheduled for September 24 in Windsor. Meetings will also be held in Weathersfield, Hartland, and West Windsor at later dates.

Amy McMullen will have Dave Baker give the board an update on how this was advertised

Windsor Power Hour:

Tiffany Riley mentioned this is period 8. When I started four years ago some felt was making a very large change and not seeing how all would fit together focusing on personal relationships and proficiency based. We were also putting a large focus on Flexible pathways. This is all connected to Act 77 and is mandated. It was very clear early on that Windsor needed a change. We partnered with Big Picture Learning with examples that guide and what focusing attention on. Helped staff move along with changes.

The focus was on educational quality standards. The senior class that just graduated did not see all these changes at once. Amy McMullen mentioned personalized learning and learning plans started with the class of 2016 when they were freshman. Big Picture Learning is can learn anywhere. There are different pathways to earn high school credits if feel passionate about what doing and put forth more effort.

2014-15

6 periods

Kids had to retake class if failed

There were many dropouts.

2019-20:

7 period day

7:45-2:40

Grade level academies

Skills zone (can moved to higher math class, etc.); retake, reviews from teachers for 9-12.

MTSS Coordinator

Flexible Pathways Coordinator and programs (many students went to Dartmouth last year; online courses this summer, virtual high school over the summer. Students can recoup credits if need to and get ahead before senior year)

Friday afternoon enrichment

Summer academic recovery

Summer Theater, Band, Humanities Camp

Power Hour (period 8) (K-6 had after school programming but 7-12 was conflict with students taking band and chorus. All athletic practices will start at 3:50 PM as want students to take advantage of other options.

Elizabeth Burrows asked how do students get to internship if they do not have their own transportation? Tiffany Riley mentioned we have a van to transport students.

Band/Theater/Chorus created a schedule to take all three if want. Drivers Ed is 12 weeks and very specific number of classroom and driving hours and students could not participate in another one until this class ends.

Asset Mapping -- Developmental Asset. Kids getting out into the community with those who might want to mentor. Bill Yates asked about credit requirements as state of VT does not have anymore, as go through Portrait of Graduate and requirements based on school board. Tiffany Riley mentioned excited to see where end with this process and credit requirements. Trying to move to proficiency model. Amy McMullen mentioned state working on proficiency of graduate and working on Portrait of Graduate. Tiffany Riley mentioned the Flexible Pathways Program had instances where taken course and was able to get a credit in two different areas. Tiffany Riley mentioned with flexibility, high school changes, and is a change for parent and teacher. We have flexibility on what a teacher's day looks like. They work 7.5 hours per day and contract allowed us to adjust starting and ending times. With proficiency based on the transcripts will be on learning expectations and skills. Colleges want to see language classes, math, English, and want to see experiences. Bill Yates mentioned this varies according to college major.

Elizabeth Burrows asked about seeing a list of courses? Tiffany Riley mentioned the Courses of Study is listed online.

Consent Agenda:

Principals Reports and Minutes:

Amy McMullen asked for a motion. Bill Yates moved; seconded by Kris Garnjost. Elizabeth Burrows mentioned that Adam Justice, PE Teacher, will have an extended role at Albert Bridge. Motion passed.

Old Business: Amy McMullen mentioned all policies are now SU wide and on the website.

New Business:

Amy McMullen mentioned Tiffany brought to her and Dave a policy on lunches. Tiffany Riley mentioned in the past had policy around charging of meals K-6, that even if a meal account overcharged, would not deny them a meal. With 7-12 if lunch account charges were \$10 could no longer purchase a meal from Cafe Services. We would not want to deny a student a meal. What should we do to encourage people to pay and even with some having a deficit? Bill Yates

mentioned was discussed at SU. Elizabeth Burrows mentioned was not K-12. Bill Yates mentioned federal guidelines for free and reduced is a specific meal. Tiffany Riley mentioned this is for non-qualified student. Bill Yates mentioned at some schools would be standard meal. Nancy Pedrick asked if person taking money ask them to take tray back and get approved meal? Bill Yates feels this depends on what they are comfortable with. Tiffany Riley mentioned we let students know ahead of time and send a letter home that there is a deficit. We will say students will have access to standard meal. Bill Yates feels should be addressed at SU level and if cannot be this board would address it. Amy McMullen feels need a policy that everyone knows what it is.

Bill Yates would like to begin a discussion around planning a preschool option within this school district. Hoping can come up with a way to increase options and encourage parents to move to the area. Amy McMullen mentioned when Act 166 was put in place the ideal was that pre-school would be in a school, but early education supports home providers. Moving into a school probably would not happen and there would need to be a strong reason to move it. Bill Yates mentioned for this school district there are very few pre-K options.

Agenda: September 9

Pre-K Options within School District

Portrait of Graduate Update

Start of School Overview

Financial

Solar

Policy K-12 choice for students from other school districts

Nancy Pedrick mentioned on August 25 there is a reunion of all people that went to Albert Bridge put on by Ray Shannis, previous principal/teacher, at Ascutney Outdoors.

Adjournment:

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Tessier, Board Secretary