

**Mount Ascutney Board Meeting**  
**Approved Minutes**  
**December 5, 2019**

**Present:** Beth Carter, Amy McMullen, Nancy Pedrick, Kris Garnjost, Elizabeth Burrows, Dave Baker, Tiffany Riley, Jenifer Aldrich, Karen Woolsey, Ed Connors

**Not Present:** Bill Yates

**Guests:** Owen Campbell, Amanda Yates

Meeting called to order at 6:33 PM.

**Additions/Corrections:** Move Student Presentations before Budget/Food Service

**Public Participation:** None

**Announcements and Celebratory Remarks from Board Members:** Kris Garnjost mentioned Midsummers Night's Dream Friday Night. Nancy Pedrick mentioned the Holiday Concert at Albert Bridge on December 12. Tiffany Riley mentioned Windsor Holiday Concerts are K-4, Tuesday December 10, and 5-12 on Wednesday, December 11. Amy McMullen mentioned Winter Sports have started practice.

**Discussion Items:**

Student Presentations: Flexible Pathway Opportunity

Miranda Todt - Becoming a Nurse Practitioner

Developed an interest in medical field and mother worked in the medical field. Looked at different options my freshman year. Attended Dartmouth Experiential Days. I was selected to do an internship at Dartmouth from July 1-August 9. My internship site was in psychiatry, data collection, Dronab Study (effects of marijuana on schizophrenic patients). ADOS testing (autism testing), Yellow Belt Project (online modules, created a project for improving Dartmouth Community), WADA Test (determines which half of the brain is primarily responsible for seizures), Mom's in Recovery (addiction and trying to get help), and Experiential Day for Interns (saw Dartmouth Helicopter, Trauma Unit). I created a Mental Health Check in sheet for Elementary Students. Through U Matter I was able to attend a Mental Health Conference. I was also able to do an internship with Mrs. Riley and the School Nurse.

Miranda mentioned she also started the Greater Windsor Clothing Authority: a non-profit organization here at school collecting items for food, hygiene products, and clothing here in the school. Next Steps is community building opportunity in school, continue on projects working on, and hired as yearlong intern.

Belle Moulton: Flexible Pathways concept allows students to take ownership of their learning. I did the Early Program College students and is most engaging way of learning. I will be discussing the following three items: 1. Own involvement, 2. Windsor involvement, 3. overall

experience and feedback. I attended the early college program and am the second person from the school to do so. The program is defined by the AOE as full time enrollment for one academic year at a post-secondary institution. Fully enrolled in college for a year while a high school student. I was introduced to this my sophomore year (had the majority of my credits in sophomore year) and wanted to major in international affairs. A CCV (Community College of Vermont) representative came and talked about dual enrollment and could take two college classes per year. In 2018, I began and was intended to have students take two classes per year but I took two at the same time. I came back to Windsor and wanted to do the early college program. My advisor at CCV said I should pursue this. Started halfway through my junior year and have taken a full year of courses. I am in my last week of school at CCV and leaving with 37 college credits.

Windsor involvement encouraged this program. They worked with me and moved me up to be a senior to do this. When I left it was with a feeling of disengagement as I had to unenroll from high school to enroll in the college program. I was not participating in activities at the school. I had to get permission to be on the cross country team and go to prom. When applying to colleges I had to fight to continue with my school e-mail and did not have access to PowerSchool to get my GPA and courses taken. In the college manual it says the high school has the right to deny services to students. The school needs to nourish their growth in school and not possible if stop services. I had a wonderful experience at CCV but left with a bitter taste with the disengagement with Windsor High School. Windsor has a decision to make if commit and promoting it needs to commit 100% and make sure students do well. I wanted to bring this to their attention as needs to be implemented correctly and completely.

Belle will be reenrolling to get her diploma and graduate with her class in June.

Tiffany Riley feels it is unfortunate Belle felt this way. A student can always get access to their transcript. Primary contact person was the student's counselor. Tiffany will check as to why e-mail was suspended. We would like to do a lot more of this.

Budget/Food Service:

Kris Garnjost asked how calculated as different schools getting different levels of service. Dave Baker mentioned will have the total cost of the program and how parcel out to three districts. There are more students in Windsor, startup work, and way decided to split up food cost is will sign a Memorandum of Agreement as cannot do assessment. Ed Connors mentioned it is based on the total cost of all three schools and based on equalized pupil. Subsidy is an increase of \$92,397. Nancy Pedrick asked how figure this as not all have breakfast and summer program. Dave Baker mentioned the summer program gets subsidized and will try to do breakfast in all buildings. The sooner can tell Craig is a go he can start the work. This is more equitable and all get the same treatment. Child Nutrition provides some help depending on free/reduced for fruits and vegetables. We have to go out and get that grant and Albert Bridge will be part of this program next year. The participation at Hartland doubled and is up at Weathersfield. We have not found a district that does a self-opt program that does not subsidize some of it. Amy McMullen mentioned we do care about students and nutrition and derelict if not go with it, with increased participation and feedback from those districts in terms of

equity for students across the SU and nutritional health for our kids. Dave Baker mentioned the Memorandum of Agreement will spell out the services to be provided.

Craig Locarno mentioned the fresh fruit and veggie program is run as a snack program and formulated as an introduction of new things to students. Craig believes is forefront to educate out students in the different tastes of different fruits and veggies. Money is a USDA grant. Amy McMullen mentioned a few years ago there was a lot of different fruits. It was run well. Tiffany Riley mentioned she has noticed the decline in available funds to get these items. Dave Baker mentioned Hartland and Weathersfield has school board representatives on the SU nutrition committee and might be nice if this board appointed someone.

Amy McMullen asked for a motion to approve the Mount Ascutney School District participating in the joint food program with Hartland and Weathersfield. Elizabeth Burrows moved; seconded by Nancy Pedrick; motion passed.

#### Budget:

Tiffany Riley mentioned we have taken into consideration the needs of all students. E-finance is the system used by the state and inputting is K-6, 7-12, and school wide (special teachers).

#### Enrollment:

620 students overall with 442 at Windsor and 93 at West Windsor.

Total Tuition: what paying out is \$798,279 or down 12.04%. This year all West Windsor students will be coming to Windsor.

We will be adding another Behavior Specialist.

Benefits increasing as health insurance up 12.9%. \$1,832,949 or up 11.75%

Total contracted services is \$409,869 or up 40.1%. These include Resource Officer, psychological, WeRHope, HCRS, 504 MTSS, Drivers Ed, and Fire Life Safety. We are looking at where can share resources and some are being shared. Elizabeth Burrows asked why decided to extend the contract with WeRHope what good has it done? Tiffany Riley mentioned some students coming with complex trauma and access is important for these students and families. Transportation can be a real barrier and make sure every student can have access if need it and bring to student. WeRHope all access is behavior coaching similar to problem solving. Working with students individually with intense doses of time dealing with anxiety or depression. HCRS is more clinical work. Windsor hired a clinician from WeRHope. Beth Carter asked is there a requirement for these services. Tiffany Riley mentioned philosophically the SU recognized that students needed these services. Jenifer Aldrich mentioned If students cannot regulate it is hard to stay in class. Dave Baker mentioned if build universal supports might have decline in IEPs, but still seeing increase in IEP referrals. Tiffany Riley mentioned Windsor decided to move from HCRS to WeRHope. As an administrative team looking at the MTSS system. Elizabeth Burrows asked if the contacts are trained in CPS. Jenifer Aldrich mentioned WeRHope doing a coaching system so students can practice regulating. Elizabeth Burrows asked how do the SEI's and BI's fit in with the WeRHope model. Some supporting some rooms

(Hive, Tree House). These are Aldrich mentioned there are some challenges and comes from different organizations but all under the same umbrella and going the same direction. When work 1:1 helps the kids change their brain. WeRHope doing some similar work. Elizabeth Burrows asked if they are getting mixed messages. Tiffany Riley mentioned we have a clinician as part of collaborative process and have conversation with teacher and SEI's.

Dave Baker mentioned talking about do we have enough co-planning. Talking about when teams can meet and do planning. We are trying to get everyone to work together. We are working toward co-planning. Nancy Pedrick asked if the WeRHope people are at Albert Bridge every day? Jenifer Aldrich mentioned two are there. Dave Baker mentioned talking if can do more sharing of resources.

Maintenance and Repair: Down 31.11%. Down as working on Vermont efficiency and doing repairs and no major anticipated expenses. Capital equipment now in supplies.

Transportation: up 1.17%. Daily transport to and from school. Windsor has added after school program and requires busing. Bus contract out to bid.

Total Energy: down 2.66% and has to do with Vermont efficiency study. Nancy Pedrick asked about solar? Ed Connors mentioned that is factored in. Fluctuates in winter. Ed Connors mentioned the solar array goes into the grid.

Equipment: down 16% due to significant reductions.

Communication/Insurance/Postage: up 22% due to insurance costs, mailings, and phone bill up.

SU Assessments: Up 4.09%

- Special Education is up due to referrals and needs students require
- Instructional, Technology and Central Office is up
- ECP down

Total Supplies: down 2.58%

Dues and Transfers: up 156% due to food program and Windsor on Air

Total budget increase is up 2.91% for a total amount of \$11,889,003.

Dave Baker mentioned do not have the CLA or equalized pupil rate. Eventually will result in tax rates in each town. Each CLA will be different.

Elizabeth Burrows asked what was decided on changes to education. Thought were not making decisions until later and hold spaces in budget for that. Did you build into budget professional development? Jenifer Aldrich mentioned increased some. Elizabeth Burrows asked Ed Connors, as saved \$120,000 in tuitions that according to the articles of agreement said would earmark for new programs. Ed Connors mentioned that was applied back. Elizabeth Burrows

stated that was not agreed to and was not to be used for tax relief for the first six years but invest in new programming. Dave Baker mentioned able to absorb \$90,000 in the food program. Elizabeth Burrows feels we should be enriching programs. Kris Garnjost mentioned wouldn't professional development take up some of that. Jenifer Aldrich mentioned at Albert Bridge we had a Play Safe Person added this year and a .4 interventionist for non-academic students. The school is no longer title funded and kept .8 interventionist and added an MTSS coordinator.

Dave Baker mentioned what we were thinking was absorbing some things and maybe break out more carefully. Doing things want to do and the excess went to programmatic. We could break out in town report. Elizabeth Burrows feels important to tell taxpayers where money went to. Jenifer Aldrich mentioned at Albert Bridge had to increase time for PE teacher for Play Safe teacher and added .2 person to teach band.

Amy McMullen mentioned thinking about Elizabeth's point, that can be part of a presentation at meetings. Dave Baker mentioned \$100,000 matching up with amount in Act 46 deliberations. We may want to carefully articulate how apply to budget. Owen Campbell asked that on first slide showed enrollment and middle school numbers go way up and what about buying more books, maybe hire another teacher. Tiffany Riley mentioned still in conversation on what long range will look like.

Elizabeth Burrows asked broken out by item and has art been cut out? Ed Connors mentioned art was put district wide as covers all grades.

Elizabeth Burrows asked on summer English and summer math; is that offered K-12. Tiffany Riley is credit recovery for high school.

Elizabeth Burrows asked about the section on curriculum development? Jenifer Aldrich mentioned that is improvement in instruction.

Beth Carter asked about psychological services increase at Albert Bridge. Jenifer Aldrich mentioned traded three general ed paras and put as SEI's. We have two SEI's and one BI.

Beth Carter about psychological services at Windsor and went into combined. With the increase will be hard to pass the budget and how can we share. Kris Garnjost feels how pitch the budget is there things sharing. They want to hear trying to save money. Tiffany Riley mention we are trying to serve all our students. Dave Baker mentioned given what Windsor went through with tax increase when get down to tax piece are looking long range at sharing.

Beth Carter asked if a student plays 2-3 sports why have to take PE. Tiffany Riley mentioned is a requirement. If playing varsity level sport can get a quarter of a credit.

#### **Consent Agenda:**

Amy McMullen asked for a motion to approve the minutes of November 14. Elizabeth Burrows moved; seconded by Kris Garnjost motion passed with one abstention and corrections.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

Dave Baker mentioned made a significant attempt at long range plan. Administratively was released and feels should have a smaller design team that might precede community forum. We need to discuss a timeline, process, then product. Elizabeth Burrows feels it should not be called innovation team but possibly purposeful change team. Amy McMullen suggested design team.

**Adjournment:**

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Tessier, Board Secretary