

**Hartland School Board**  
**Draft Minutes**  
**September 16, 2019**

**Present:** Sarah Stewart Taylor, Beth Roy, Nicki Buck, Colleen Spence, Scott Richardson, Christine Bourne, Brittany Preston, Angie Ladeau

Meeting called to order at 6:03 PM

**Changes/Additions:** Changing order to: SU Name, Radar List, Financials. Climate strike is Friday (excused absence and corn maze trip).

**Approval of Minutes:** August 19, 2019

Nicki Buck asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Sarah Stewart Taylor moved; seconded by Beth Roy; motion passed with one abstention.

**Public Participation:** None

**Discussion Items:**

SU Name:

Nicki Buck mentioned that the SU at this point tabled this discussion but was talk of renaming as WSESU is Windham Southeast and also confused with Windsor Central. Discussion of trying to come up with a name that is more representative of the community and does not get confused. Could not agree on name. If think of a name let people know. One was Mount Ascutney but would be confused with the district; Precision Valley, however, Springfield has taken that name. Other suggestions were: Monadnock, Ascutney Basin. Christine Bourne suggested this could be part of Portrait of Graduate work. Sarah Stewart Taylor suggested Ascutney Region or Connecticut River. Nicki Buck feels need a creative solution. If have a suggestion let Dave or Diane know. Scott Richardson mentioned when google WSESU you get Windham and Windsor Southeast Supervisory Union is written out.

Principal's Report:

- New Teacher Day: End of August and served breakfast and lunch.
- First day of in-service for SU: Staff in the afternoon for some fun, engaging activities. Cohort of three that support each other all year. There was a puzzle solving activity. Very positive.
- Coffee outside on the first day of school. Not too many scheduling glitches and working on behavior logging system and working well.
- Year of the book kickoff on Friday with Duncan McDougall. The 5/6 graders were totally engaged. Every student got the first of 10 books will get this year.
- Portrait of Graduate Design Team: 80 people. Should come to all of the meetings. Beth Roy mentioned she will do it along with Nicki Buck.
- SRO: Officer Paul. Committee met in early September and had a general rule that Officer Paul will be meeting with groups. He has been stopping in for lunch, recess, and check ins, and helping with a truancy issue. Officer Paul called the principal personally when Springfield went into lockdown. Committee will meet in January to see how going. Scott Richardson asked if Officer Paul received his certification over the summer.

Brittany Preston mentioned he's going to another training specifically on security and school safety. Christine Bourne mentioned the school is revamping all protocols to state recommendation. You can barricade your door and never force kids or staff to do things not comfortable with. We want to be consistent across the board. We are rethinking where evacuate and more than one place to get there. Sarah Stewart Taylor feels asking staff to put themselves on the line that should not have to. Scott Richardson asked about Officer Paul being called because a student leaving school grounds. Is that happening at a rate consistent with the state. Brittany Preston mentioned students leaving is not a common occurrence. Calling the police when students leave the property is typical for us. This information is not tracked. Officer Paul responds immediately.

- PTSF:
  - Holiday Bazaar - Dec. 13. Coordinating with Farmers Market
  - Wreath fundraiser around Thanksgiving
  - Community Yard Sale - May 16
  - Yankee Candle Fundraiser
- Lunch Program:
  - Going very well. Kids and staff love the salad bar.
  - Lunches up from beginning of year up by 300.
  - Down in breakfast by 84. Had not started Breakfast After the Bell yet. Craig would like to serve chocolate milk at breakfast. Christine Bourne feels it's fine. Board is fine with it.
  - Beth Roy mentioned at Open House is first community meal. Open House for Grades K-3 is 5:30-6:00 is K-3; Community Meal from 6:00-6:30; Open House for Grades 4-8 is 6:30-7:00 is 4-8. Christine mentioned Craig is doing a phenomenal job.
- Other:
  - 17-acre wood management plan. Mike will cut small trees. Beth Roy is willing to ask conservation commission. Asked if school has a management plan. Beth will contact the commission that no maintenance plan. Sarah Stewart Taylor suggested community service for 8th graders. Could partner with Hartford Forestry Program.
  - VPA put out request for Equity Practitioners Network. Christine Bourne mentioned she applied and was selected along with Tiffany Riley from Windsor. Dave Baker is an equity fellow and will collaborate on projects.
  - Rowland Foundation Annual Conference and eight people and two students accepted from the Standards Committee.
  - Working with consultant (Beth White - Big Picture Learning) who will come and work with standard based learning going forward. Angie Ladeau and I are working on obtaining grant money. Standard based learning is student driven/project based education.
  - Student Council wants to run a student store again this year and donate profits to an organization at the end of the year.

Nicki Buck mentioned she spoke with Alison and Michael Wilson about Keira and is with host family. Everything is going very well and wanted to thank us.

Radar List:

The board members shared their lists and will look for common themes.

Nicki:

- Building function and flow
- Building security, food, gym classes all happen in the same room. How building functioning and committee look at this.
- Engaging students in their passion and what working on
- Reaching community and feeling community
- Building vibe
- Truancy (staff and students)
- Social and emotional issues in students
- Food integration

Scott:

- Acting purely as school board; policy accomplishment
- School safety - building flow and SRO accomplishment
- Meeting community
- Investing in future Pre-K-middle school. Envisioning list. Invest in younger students earlier and has been illustrated is worthwhile. Pre-K option in community. Tried imagining one middle school, satellite districts Pre-K-6 and more district continuity (sharing program, resources)
- Contract negotiations
- SU name change
- New Policy (recommended and required)

Sarah:

- Revisiting the question of renaming school to reflect that not just elementary. Would renaming it communicates that we are about middle school and important part of mission.
- Keep track of how middle school doing and tracking how ready for high school
- Keeping track of demographics to help us plan ahead and budget. How big is the 8th grade this year and in coming years? What take to get public Pre-K
- Proficiency based grading. Heard that people do not understand how kids doing, kids not sure how doing. Teachers unsure how communicate how student's doing. NEA did a big survey and teachers do not know how to use it, not trained, not communicating information to parents, inequity. Important that we are doing what we are doing.
- Checking in on Algebra class and how doing and working. Christine mentioned the class is going well. Dave Baker feels the kids are engaged and going smoothly. Christine mentioned Windsor has early release every Friday. Teachers have meetings and professional development and Albert Bridge taking part. Class periods shorter on Fridays and kids come back to study hall. Trying to figure out if kids could stay longer on Friday for direct attention.
- Music theater program -- increase time
- Are we on top of changes in special education funding?

Beth:

- Special education staffing and help staffing as still looking for people. Christine Bourne mentioned just hired last one. Beth Roy asked, if problems with hiring is there a way to increase the hourly rate and reduce hours.
- Science instruction as do not see much happening. What ideas for early ed students?
- Project based work and ground work in place with space based education. Connecting place in community

Colleen

- Community brunch this weekend
- Revisiting stuff from forum -- talked about at the last meeting. Looked at the big picture. Parents hoping to hear back. What important in community. Christine Bourne mentioned drama club back
- Math curriculum -- know different requirements for high schools. Some can test out of algebra. High schools do placement testing.
- Making sure kids with learning disabilities, not on IEPs, getting resources
- Drama/Music
- After school -- had community meeting that rec center not sure how to handle some kids and what is our responsibility
- Special Education-- laws changed and how affect us. Off another year and special educators working with non-special education students. Brittany Preston mentioned different ways of using resources.
- Proficiency based grading

Angie Ladeau mentioned Act 173 is special education law and looks at needs based learning and all pieces that make up the educational system are in that law.

Christine:

- Proficiency Based education for staff and parents
- CIP goals and trauma informed practices
- Student engagement
- MTSS -- meet the needs of all students
- Strengthening school community (getting community in the school; job shadow days; woods and outdoor education. Nicki Buck feels should think past parents and rely on the rest of the community. Scott Richardson suggested possibly having a board meeting on the same day as Saturday breakfast.

Common Themes:

- Community
- Special Education
- Students

Financials: Ed Connors

Deficit at end of 2018 and added in funding formula. Education spending grant you are \$28,000 in red and goes back to Act 85. Full implementation of Obama Care with savings and premiums. Premiums down and deductible up. This was a state two year buy back in 2018 and 2019.

State education to transportation do not know the rate.

Home schooled students going to the tech center. State pays the tech center. Budgeted was \$8 million and collected \$11,258.67 which is 100.14% above budget.

Wages - budgeting for 2021. Will be using what staffing levels are at this time. When went into Obama Care lower premium and high deductible and have Health Saving Account funded by the school district. Company works with Blue Cross.

Contracted Services: \$28,000 surplus.

Nursing Services: \$11,000 savings

Professional Education Services: only spent \$170

The overall surplus is \$ 28,787.86

Tuition: more than budgeted so over 1.07%.

Assessments: \$695,000 overspent in fiscal year.

Energy was electric and oil. Projected \$1.89 and went up to 2.36 and had to use more gallons. Over budget by 20%. Electric bill over spent by \$5,700 and oil \$13,000.

Total deficit for 2019 was \$94,444 due to special education.

**Agenda:** October 21

Principal's Report

Budgeting Discussion

Radar List

Testing Results - Update

Scott Richardson mentioned the team really came together. Scott appreciates Angie's blog as is very helpful.

Christine Bourne mentioned the data team established at the SU level and are figuring out how to use it and what to use.

**Adjournment:**

Nicki Buck asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Colleen Spence moved; seconded by Scott Richardson; motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Tessier, Board Secretary