

**Mount Ascutney Board Meeting  
Draft Minutes  
January 20, 2020**

**Present:** Beth Carter, Amy McMullen, Nancy Pedrick, Elizabeth Burrows, Bill Yates, Kris Garnjost, Dave Baker, Tiffany Riley, Jenifer Aldrich, Ed Connors, Owen Campbell

Meeting called to order 6:04 PM

**Additions/Corrections:** None

**Public Participation:** None

**Announcements and Celebratory Comments from Board Members:** Bill Yates mentioned had the first two meetings with union groups and gone well, beginning stages.

**Consent Agenda:**

Amy McMullen asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda. Elizabeth Burrows moved; seconded by Bill Yates. Jenifer Aldrich mentioned that the students wanted to have more voice in end of year celebration at Albert Bridge and talking about and what do for Boston Trip. Rumors going around and put a pause on it to have a better plan. Would like to do an overnight trip, but may not happen, but a day trip is doable. Beth Carter asked why not do the trip K-8 with both schools. Tiffany Riley mentioned the PTO has always funded Windsor's trip and could not do both schools. Elizabeth Burrows mentioned in past years at Albert Bridge was always the 6th graders. This is a celebratory trip for the school. Albert Bridge was in discussion with students in all grades. Jenifer Aldrich mentioned could not get ahead of it soon enough but we will have a better plan. Motion passed with two abstentions.

**Discussion Items:**

**Budget:**

Elizabeth Burrows asked about food service and where is it in the budget. It is under Board and is \$149,147. Ed Connors mentioned will get small schools' grant as this was a voluntary merger.

Budget up 1.37% from last year for a total of \$11,768,144 or an increase of \$159,537.

West Windsor still has a debt to pay off which will appear on their tax bill which is the addition to Albert Bridge back in 1996.

Tax Rate: West Windsor is 1.5673 or 6.998%. Windsor's is 1.5093 or 6.319%.

Beth Carter asked why wages dropped but added employees and Physical Education added full time at Albert Bridge and not reflected? Dave Baker mentioned when people retired hired people at lower level. Health insurance has gone up 12%. Contracted services are assessments for regular education students, speech for regular education students, WeRHope, and Control Tech.

Nancy Pedrick asked why transportation cost has gone up. Dave Baker mentioned it was put out to bid and only had only bid.

Phone costs in all schools have gone up.

Dave Baker mentioned between now and next year need to show some reduction and did not have to this year. Elizabeth Burrows mentioned some services have been blended together. Amy McMullen mentioned what will help save money is the grandfathered tuition students when they graduate. Bill Yates mentioned it will take time to see structural changes. If this budget goes down might have to start looking at staffing patterns. Amy McMullen mentioned taxpayers want to make sure that spending wisely.

Amy McMullen asked for a motion to approve the expenditure budget of \$11,768,144 for the 2020-2021 school year. Bill Yates moved; seconded by Nancy Pedrick. Kris Garnjost asked if wanted to bring the tax rate down by two cents and cutting \$130,000 where would that come from. Bill Yates mentioned would be cutting two senior staff or four lower staff and would not do that. Amy McMullen mentioned the board needs to be ready for this conversation at the school meeting. Dave Baker feels will be questions arising around sharing staff and feel is a year too early for this. Kris Garnjost mentioned we could bring up plans to move forward with that. It should be part of the statement. Bill Yates mentioned it comes from reorganizing and how deliver instruction. Dave Baker mentioned West Windsor supported the merger due to double digit tax increases and could not keep bringing them those tax increases. Talked about forums, models, and design team members. Motion passed.

**Old Business:** Budget

**New Business:** review PowerPoint. Annual budget meeting on February 29 at 1:00 in the Lois White Auditorium.

**Agenda:** February 10 - Albert Bridge  
Working on Presentation  
Design Team Update and Schedule  
Student Representative on Board

**Executive Session:**

Amy McMullen asked for a motion to enter into executive session for Title 1, Section 313 after a three-minute break. Elizabeth Burrows moved; seconded by Kris Garnjost; motion passed. Board entered executive session at 7:15 PM.

**Adjournment:**

Amy McMullen asked for a motion to exit executive session and adjourn the meeting. Beth Carter moved; seconded by Nancy Pedrick; motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Tessier, Board Secretary

DRAFT