

**WSSU Board Meeting
Draft Meeting
February 27, 2020**

Present: Elizabeth Burrows, Amy McMullen, Beth Carter, AnneMarie Redmond, Jacqui Antonivich, Sean Whalen, Nicki Buck, Scott Richardson, Dave Baker, Karen Woolsey, Angie Ladeau,

Meeting called to order at 6:40 PM.

Changes/Additions: Continuous Improvement Plan; Special Education Child Count

Comments from Board Members on Items not on the Agenda: None

Minutes: January 27

Amy McMullen asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Elizabeth Burrows moved; seconded by Beth Carter; motion passed with corrections.

Discussion Items:

Super District Concept: Amy McMullen mentioned at the last meeting talked about this with the districts of Hartford, Windsor, and Springfield. We are three individual districts that have a high school and how to make use of all three of our schools. The other districts in our SU were not part of it as no high school. On the off chance that would have pursued, we would have created our own district. Only a few people felt it was a possibility but would take a significant amount of energy to convince people in the towns to come together to create a school board and a budget. Elizabeth Burrows stated part of the impetus was, as Bill works at Hartford, there has been a lot of talk that Hartford needs a new school in the next five years. Amy McMullen mentioned all high school enrollments are dropping all over. Elizabeth Burrows feels now might be the time to suggest building a new school for Hartford, Woodstock, and our SU. Windsor has the capacity to become a technical school. Dave Baker mentioned there was some talk this summer that the state board would be discussing redrawing district lines. Elizabeth Burrows feels we need to be proactive with this. Dave Baker mentioned if boards have an interest can form a 706B committee to discuss a high school merger. Dave Baker mentioned he is willing to reach out to the other superintendents. Elizabeth Burrows asked about a survey on the Upper Valley facebook page. Amy McMullen feels that is getting too far ahead. Elizabeth Burrows asked how will we know the public opinion if only a few people getting together to discuss. Amy McMullen feels should run this by

the other boards and let them know doing it. Dave Baker asked if our SU is interested in a discussion about a union high school.

Scott Richardson mentioned that a workshop he attended that Rutland and Woodstock presented their portrait projects and was very interesting. They had a clear path and group of parents suggested a program. Sean Whalen mentioned he would feel differently if our portrait had integrity and headed toward unification. Amy McMullen mentioned everytime it was considered we would have a number of community forums through Act 46 and two towns did not have a vote in the survey. We have two strong towns that say they still want choice and not giving it up. Dave Baker mentioned we resurrected the idea of a super district and did not get very far. Elizabeth Burrows mentioned she had talked with people who said if there was a mega district they would relinquish school choice. AnneMarie Redmond mentioned she loves that Weathersfield has choice and does not want to give it up but if a larger high school where get everything would be fine with this. If Woodstock getting into the process of building a new school should reach out soon. Dave Baker mentioned if the board wants to do inquiry he can reach out to superintendents but need to decide if just Hartford and Woodstock or add Springfield. It is hard to engage a community and extend 25-30 miles, no matter the process, people will be saying that not surveyed, not included. Closer you stay to home and entity, is about ownership with students. Scott Richardson mentioned it's more expensive sending students out. Elizabeth Burrows feels this is the time to do it. Dave Baker will reach out to the superintendents.

New Website: Larry Dougher

Current website is five years old and created a new one this fall. The biggest complaint from the old website was the calendar. The new website will be launched within the next week.

Child Count: Karen Woolsey

It is unverified and will be going over so that it is accurate and need to confirm everything. Discusses funding categories and service plans. IDEAB covers 279 kids. Elizabeth Burrows asked what is age range. Karen Woolsey mentioned covers students up to their 22nd birthday and can get a waiver from the state to keep going. We have 279 students on IEPs. As of December 1, primary disability was in language impairment (processing), emotional disturbances, and other health impairments. The largest number is specific learning disability (reading, writing, math -- learning as opposed to cognition). This is the greatest barrier to education. Developmental delay is all in early childhood education (cognition, language, motor skills). Once a student turns 18 we need their permission to have parents involved.

Design Team Meeting:

Angie Ladeau and Dave Baker working with Mr. Patel getting ready to kick off phase II on March 12. Phase I did a lot of visioning, philosophical work, skill sets for 21st graduate, and will solidify and start next phase. Part will be to look at strengths and weaknesses. There are 23 people going on to phase II. Most staff, administrative team, and students staying with us. Elizabeth Burrows mentioned there is a person with whom had a lengthy discussion if phase II violates open meeting laws. Elizabeth mentioned she looked at law and all phase I meetings were conference style and did not violate law but phase II will.

Plan for Special Education:

Dave Baker mentioned this was done in spirit of collaboration. Karen Woolsey and Katie Ahern have made it work. At first principals felt overwhelmed with inquiries. People are feeling ownership with process and accountability with staff. Elizabeth Burrows asked if every building has an LEA? Dave Baker mentioned the LEA resides with the SU and with this plan principals are the LEA and sometimes might need Karen or Katie to guide the process. Elizabeth Burrows is concerned with principals acting as the LEA as is more responsibility on their plates. Dave Baker mentioned principals were told to reach out with questions. If contentious or new service and cost money, then instructed to involve the central office. Can ask principals the pluses and minuses of them being LEA's. We want kids included and do not want to lose them.

Policies:

Security Cameras: Amy McMullen asked for a motion to approve the policy with changes Scott Richardson moved; seconded by Nicole Buck. Motion passed with one nay.

Social Media Policy: Elizabeth Burrows suggested taking a look at it. Amy McMullen will bring it with her to the state trustees meeting in March.

Continuous Improvement Plan: Angie Ladeau

The Agency of Education revised the process with a more formalized data process and provide analysis used. In the past couple years grants have not opened until June, and previously was April. This year is opening April 1 and need to have improved CIP's recorded and reviewed. Angie Ladeau mentioned she would like this to become more of our projects and how reflects priorities. In CIP need strategy or goal and investments addressed. Beth Carter asked how parents demonstrate increased understanding. Parents should be taken out as cannot measure. Have surveys been done? Angie feels have not. We are up for an integrated field review this year. Elizabeth Burrows

asked if one goal should be students understanding standards being taught. Angie Ladeau mentioned using learning target for students to understand what is being taught. Beth Carter feels we need to measure learning targets Dave Baker mentioned board members will give comments at individual meetings. The state is trying to tighten up so can measure. Some of these bullets do describe our work. Angie will send the CIP to all board members.

Around the SU:

Hartland: Had school district meeting and presented a 16 cent increase and got applause. There were 16 people in attendance. One of the more outspoken community members felt Hartland was a happier place this year than last year. Nicki and Christine feels it is because of SRO and not griping about food this year.

Weathersfield: Have on our agenda reviewing policies and practices around communicable diseases. Town Meeting on Saturday and have made paper lately with letters to the editor. Budget advisory committee did not support the budget and people wanted everyone to know that. There will be a floor vote to authorize the lease of the roof for the solar project.

Dave Baker mentioned that he will receive extensive information from the CDC on the coronavirus. Amy McMullen mentioned Japan is closing all schools until sometime in April . Dave Baker mentioned we will follow the Agency of Education's guidelines. Nicki Buck mentioned critical work now is what systems have to work with and what do families have to work with. Can students bring a chromebook home and keep up with work. What families will need most in terms of resources.

Mount Ascutney: Meeting is Saturday afternoon. We had our first innovation planning team meeting around class structure, use of physical and human resources, and staffing patterns so communities know we are making the best use of all our resources to provide the best education, life opportunities and be responsible to the community.

Agenda: March 23

Reorganization

Super District

Social Media Policy

Continuous Improvement Plan

Town Meetings

Executive Session:

Amy McMullen asked for a motion to enter executive session for the purpose of Title 1, Section 313. Sean Whalen moved; seconded by Elizabeth Burrows; motion passed. Entered into executive session at 9:00 PM.

Amy McMullen asked for a motion to exit executive session and make the motion to authorize the superintendent to appoint an Interim Director of Student Support Services following an internal search. Elizabeth Burrows moved; seconded by Sean Whalen; motion passed. Exited executive session at 9:30 PM.

Adjournment:

Amy McMullen asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sean Whalen moved; seconded by Scott Richardson; motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Tessier, Board Secretary