

**WSESU Board Meeting**  
**Draft Minutes**  
**March 23, 2020**

Present: Nancy Pedrick, Bill Yates, Angie Ladeau, Amy, McMullen Elizabeth Burrows, Dave Baker, Craig Locarno, Sarah Stewart Taylor, Larry Dougher, Scott Richardson, Colleen Spence, Beth Roy, Nicole Buck, Mark Yuengling, Kris Garnjost, AnneMarie Redmond, Sean Whalen, Jim Taft

Meeting called to order at 6:33 PM by Superintendent David Baker.

Dave Baker mentioned folks on the front lines will give updates in their area. Working through the crisis but it's the people behind the scenes making things work. There are three essential tasks: maintenance of education of pupils and working with teachers, IT, level of instruction and regular and special education; food service to provide lunches, went into summer lunch mode and provide lunches to all kids under 18 or 18 if still in school; and last is childcare.

Instruction and IT and learning a lot every day and are in maintenance mode by AOE and not expect jumps in student performance but maintain. We need to meet academic, social, and emotional needs. If go into the second phase for extended time then in different mode and get further direction by the AOE. Might tighten schedules, interventions of special education and won't worry until know where headed.

Larry Dougher mentioned in good shape ad tickets tracking incidents or break computer and just looked as was up. Compared 2019 to 2020 and tickets doubled. Closure rate is as it was when in session. We can do a lot of work remotely. Mike Walker did a house call and Larry has done three. Teachers used to ticketing system. Grades 5-12 pretty good and have already done on line learning. Grades K-4 to lesser extent and grades 1-4 different as a lot of parents are not used to having chromebooks at home. Sent a message to parents giving them home internet resources. We filter chromebooks even when at home by tracking the history of websites visited. Received one technology issue from parents and most in good shape and understand what going on. Those without internet access in Vermont closer to 22% depending on where situated and there are places that do not have access to good internet and only two tickets of concern. Cornish and Plainfield is a lot larger with parents not having access to the internet. Compared to a lot of our peers we are in good shape and is because of the boards supporting technology. JD McMahan, Ryan Dougher, Mike Walker and Dave Lamb are doing yeoman's work now. Dave Baker thanked Larry for all his work.

Larry Dougher mentioned he will post wifi areas on the website. Have seen kids and parents sitting outside the school getting wifi.

Angie Ladeau - Childcare:

Jennifer Sprague, Director of , working with families of 0-5 years and Angie working with those K-8. The Agency of Education put out a survey and gathered data and shared it over the weekend. Angie mentioned she is trying to get data and got 25-30 surveys and some might need and some are yes do need. Today met for next steps and elicit volunteers from staff members and those who are not exempt from doing child care. If we do not get number of volunteers, as can only have 10 people in a room, and talking where can hold the program. The central location is Windsor School. We could elicit community volunteers. Volunteers still have to go through child care vetting and be fingerprinted. Last thing would be assigning staff if do not get volunteers. Hoping can get something up and running by the end of the week and definitely by Monday.

Service - Craig Locarno.

They have done a good job and going great as everyone joined together as a team putting out food. Harland is 125 on a daily basis; Weathersfield (Cliff lead cook chose to leave on one days notice and Heather stepped up and took reins and has done an amazing job) and up to 200. Windsor doing well and checked with Anton and was happy. No number yet but was planning on 100. Making sure doing tracking on a daily basis. Discussed West Windsor today with Dave Baker and Jenifer Aldrich and putting meals on buses on Wednesday leaving from Windsor and will reach more people. Plenty of help so far and doing great. Bus drivers know every students name on their bus route. Dave Baker mentioned up to around 500 and kudos to everyone doing the work. We went into summer lunch mode so do not have to go into free and reduced mode. We will continue to do that. Craig mentioned with Hartland and, in question, for being able to provide free meals. Each bus has a roster and highlighting each that get breakfast and lunch. If feed 125 students and 50% are free/reduced we can feed everyone for free. Beth Roy mentioned doing work on national end around qualifications and what can do is get applications out to families and, if financial situation changes, get forms in and if over 50% do not need to count. All schools should help push this out. State is trying to get rid of the waiver for 50% at this time. Difficult to get changed and every state asking for waiver and may reach out to administrators to help us out. Dave Baker mentioned will get applications out. Things may be different now for a lot of people who may not have qualified before.

Bill Yates mentioned the federal government waived all requirements for state testing this year. Dave Baker mentioned the meeting is being recorded so can archive this

meeting. Bill Yates asked if more than 10 people should we move child care groups into different buildings. Dave Baker mentioned is better around accessibility and OSHA has requirements around setting them up and need to have masks and gloves available.

Jim Taft - Maintenance. Things are going well. When first heard was using a new spray product to keep sanitized and jumped into crises response of deep cleaning and disinfecting. Throughout schools using a peroxide cleaner. First in line to jump in on disinfectant. Use five different ones and two do not need to be wiped down but just sprayed and stays wet for half a minute and kills germs. We use Lysol and a new cleaner that kills germs 99% faster and ordered 10 cases. Biggest challenge and, worried about shortage, but being helped with that. Low on hand sanitizer and clorox wipes. Lead time is five weeks and on order for three weeks. Cleaning and disinfecting and had to give people a chance to stay or go home and some went home. Biggest thing is cross contamination. If go into room at a school we do not use sponges or mops and using heavy strength towels and discard them. Cleaning like at the beginning of school. Sean Whalen volunteered to help out at the schools if needed. Jim Taft mentioned we take help and if get down anyone else but right now pretty good. Sean Whalen thanked Jim for doing an excellent job. Trying to keep everyone home and do social distancing.

Dave Baker mentioned with online format have met with more committees than when in the office. Provides easy access and this job requires coordination and thanks to Larry Dougher for google hangout. Hopefully will work at board level. Amy McCullen mentioned has not received anything on open meeting law. Dave Baker mentioned the bill was going to waive a physical space. If could meet without physical place would be great. We work hard at how to advertise and how people check in and will post recording.

### **Reorganization:**

Chair: Dave Baker asked for nominations for chair. Nancy Pedrick nominated Bill Yates; seconded by Elizabeth Burrows. Sean Whalen nominated Elizabeth Burrows; seconded by Nicole Buck. Elizabeth Burrows declined the nomination. Scott Richardson nominated Amy McCullen; seconded by Colleen Spence. Amy McMullen mentioned she would accept the nomination if so elected. Dave Baker asked those who made the nominations to speak a little about the candidate. Nancy Pedrick likes Bill's understanding of the SU, expertise, role in negotiations and feels he has a lot of new ideas and ability to move us in direction looking for. Scott Richardson mentioned for Amy appreciated her fairness and experience, perspective, and a big fan of women in

leadership. The vote was 7-3 for Amy McMullen. Dave Baker thanked Bill for all his help with negotiations and IT help.

Vice Chair: Amy McMullen asked for nominations. Nancy Pedrick nominated Bill Yates; seconded by Kris Garnjost; motion passed 9-1

Clerk of Board: Amy McMullen nominated Colleen Spence; seconded by Sean Whalen; motion passed 10-0.

Treasurer: Amy McMullen asked for nominations. Nancy Pedrick nominated Sean Whalen; seconded by Bill Yates; motion passed 10-0.

Assistant Treasurer: Amy McMullen asked for nominations. Nicole Buck nominated Sdcott Richadson; seconded by Bill Yates; motion passed 9-0 with one abstention.

Signer of the Manifest: Amy McMullen asked for nominations. Sean Whalen nominated Bill Yates. Nancy Pedrick nominated Kris Garnjost; seconded by Colleen Spence. Kris declined the nomination. Motion passed unanimously for Bill Yates.

Budget Committee: Colleen Spence, Bill Yates, and Sean Whalen volunteered.

Official Newspaper: Valley News, Eagle Times, Vermont Standard. Amy Mculen mentioned Mountain Times said we could use them. Elizabeth Burrows asked Hartland people if Curt Peterson was writing for Mountain Times and if feels he did a good job. Nicki Buck mentioned she met with him before. Amy M McMullen mentioned she will talk with him. Sean Whalen mentioned media coverage is importantt in good governance. When rotated meetings were able to get more public than being here in the conference room as does not allow for a lot of public.

Establishment of day, time, place: 4th Monday, 6:30 PM. Scott Richardson suggested if continuing to do hangout format could we explore different times. Sean Whalen feels should find a way to meet outside. We ask students to do it and we should do it. Amy Mculen mentioned when weather is conducive. We had an SU meeting in an outdoor classroom and would have to be a little earlier. Hosting school could determine if inside or outside dependent on weather and discuss changing time. Consensus of the board.

**Changes/Additions to Agenda:** Super District on next agenda.

**Minutes:** February 27

Amy McMullen asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Nicki Buck moved; seconded by Bill Yates; motion passed with three abstentions.

**Discussion Items:**

Continuous Improvement Plan: Angie Ladeau

Started collecting data on inventory and not made much progress and hope state lifts the requirements for data and root cause analysis. Any questions? Angie mentioned she will tighten up the draft and remove some things. Amy McMullen feels the state should either push back the deadline or go with next year. Angie Ladeau mentioned the CIP is required and hoping lift the data inventory requirement. Part is analysis and statement but never had to provide exact data and each building needs to do that. Grant is due July 1 if want to do contracts for summer work so we can put application in earlier. When child care program up and running can move back to the CIP.

Super District:

Dave Baker mentioned he reached out to the other superintendents in Hartford, Springfield and Woodstock and all expressed interest. Amy McMullen feels would be an interesting conversation and see how attitudes have changed. Elizabeth Burrows feels it is very exciting. Bill Yates mentioned he championed the idea of planning a wider time period and not just 2-3 years but 10-30 down the road and getting a plan to the liking of said districts instead of state dictating what do. Scott Richardson feels governance is the key issue. Amy McMullen mentioned it was hard with West Windsor/Windsor how towns represented and even larger conversation with Hartford, Windsor, Springfield, Hartland, Weathersfield, and Woodstock. Bill Yates mentioned in Act 46 were under time crunch but now the board would start the ball rolling and create governance before buy in.

Social Media Policy:

Dave Baker mentioned sent out last draft and priority has shifted. Life is more complicated in this area and feels should put off for now and get through next weeks/month and revisit. Bill Yates feels is a big issue and should do it right. Dave Baker mentioned he will put out another overview tomorrow. Governor laid out new directives and people to work from home as much as possible except those essential workers and claims in 24-48 hours new directives and how to do that. Elizabeth Burrows disagrees about putting off and should pressure the VSBA to come up with a policy as temporarily distance learning and, if long term, should have policies around these roles. Amy McMullen agrees that doing social media platforms and will learn a lot more and some we may have missed putting into action now. Should be mindful of how it works.

Amy will send an e-mail to Sue at the VSBA asking if any information on them creating a policy as needed for a while. Dave Baker feels will rise to the top in a few weeks.

Town Meetings: Hartland: Nicole Buck mentioned went well and 2/3 voted for and 1/3 against. Good meeting and everyone supportive.

Weathersfield: AnneMarie Redmond mentioned focused on solar on roof and not many questions on budget. Athletic budget came under fire as the salary is \$15,000. Drama program was another issue as spending \$4,000 as used to be free. Budget Passed by eight votes. Trying to get the community more involved..

Mount Ascutney: Elizabeth Burrows mentioned at the meeting there were about eight people from Windsor and 13 from West Windsor and hung up on slides having to do with the student population. Budget passed overwhelmingly. No one asked any substantive questions on the budget.

#### **Around SU:**

Amy McMullen mentioned on a personal level working from home from the library and Town of Windsor office closed to the public and taking appointments and might change. Kids home from college for the rest of semester. Different world.

Nancy Pedrick mentioned home schooling two grandchildren and is difficult. Everyday gets better.

Bill Yates mentioned finished everything with support staff and waiting to sign contract. Things went well thanks to Dave and Scott and try to finish up in this atmosphere.

Nicole Buck mentioned she already worked from home and now has two coworkers. Feeling for other parents with one in special education and teaching from home. Very challenging and, as chair, gets e-mails from principal and other parents on how challenging for special education students and gives them guidance. Kids in grades 3 and 5 and teachers gave them 4-5 hours of work a day.

Dave Baker mentioned Karen Woolsey has a lot on her plate. Directives came slower in that department and had to come from a chain of command. In maintenance phase and expectations are different and there are a lot of waivers. Gearing up next week for more of the long haul. Will need more direction and step up the support. Idea of balancing your own work, kids, and, if in for the long haul ,need to figure out strategies to work for everyone. Angie Ladeau mentioned earlier was on a team call of teachers

and teacher was a parent and had a hard time balancing her demands and demands of children., Need more specific guidance as to expectations. If home schooling kids do not spend 4-5 hours on work in the younger group. Need more guidance for teachers, parents, and students. Nicole Buck mentioned parents asked to highlight challenges. Teachers have done an amazing job getting work to kids on the fly. Created an amazing system and amazing teachers.

Elizabeth Burrows mentioned her experience as a parent and both children excited on extended screen time. Emotional adjustment the first few days and tears due to feeling overwhelmed and feelings indefinable. As week progressed could define things and feeling better about work. Is there any guidance from state level how to help families when one or more family members sick. Potential chaos and has state given any guidance as schools have more roles than giving out assignments. Dave Baker mentioned parents are asked to give social/emotional support of someone sick or struggling. Elizabeth Burrows mentioned talking about staff and families, if one is quarantined and the rest of family is there is there any guidance?

Dave Baker mentioned amazing how tracking students and not with systematic approach. Elizabeth Burrows mentioned if the system breaks down that supporting them and extra burdens not much can be done except acknowledge it is here. Dave Baker feels at this point there is no answer other than check in. People are visiting homes and bringing food.

Colleen Spence mentioned not thought about it before that teachers in another point of contact. My kids are 13 and amazed by the work getting done and self sufficient. Hartland teachers did a great job to pull this together so fast. If a family falling apart we play it by ear and figure out what happens next.

Bill Yates mentioned a lot of topics coming up. My wife is online teaching and a lot of stress. Teachers need guidance on type and amount of work giving students as complete work at different rates and living situations. Less is more. Important for teachers to have guidance that their insecurity in letting students down and give as much instruction as possible is overwhelming for some families and is detrimental more than productive. Teachers need guidance to make interesting and productive.

Dave Baker mentioned this is consistent in what was discussed. Feel will come times when things will collapse or breakdown. Towns setting up emergency management situations and realize when do check ins might have to hand out to other agencies.

Elizabeth Burrows feels might useful if going to rely on town mutual aid organizations to have Dan French say is on you and not guess what doing here.

Scott Richardson mentioned introduced section on personal sharing and a lot of great ideas. Met bus other day and wave to them and get a lunch for high schooler as youngest still enrolled in Windsor. Got another lunch and is a nice connection. Wanted to see what lunches were and be part of it and give my support to them. Not that hard here as cousins home from college and physically distancing. What unsettling is in for the long haul, not sure what will happen and what might look like when we are struggling a lot more than tonight, runs through my mind. We are used to a lot more support than forefathers were and take a lot emotionally and physically. Why does school year end when does and start as late in summer and capitalizing on time in days past called summer vacation.

Dave Baker mentioned is less concerned about academics but isolation of the rest of us and all feeling this. In terms of school year time to call into question these issues.

Scott Richardson mentioned comforting time if get away from radio and twitter. On governance, board members come and go and systems look after are more important and concerns of exploration. If goes into that phase board members selling idea and not concentrating on governing district. Best if think of whole picture all the time.

School district work doesn't always demand look at whole picture.

### **Executive Session:**

Amy McMullen asked for a motion to enter executive session. Scott Richardson moved; seconded by Nancy Pedrick; motion passed. Entered executive session at 8:54 PM.

Amy McMullen asked for a motion to exit executive session and re-enter public session. Kris Garnjost moved; seconded by Nancy Pedrick; motion passed. Re-entered public session at 9:02 PM.

### **Agenda Items:**

Super District

Social Media Policy

Continuous Improvement Plan

Update: Covid 19

### **Adjournment:**

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Tessier, Board Secretary