

**WSESU Meeting
Draft Minutes
May 26, 2020**

Present: Sean Whalen, Sarah Stewart Taylor, Elizabeth Burrows, Nancy Pedrick, Nicki Buck, Scott Richardson, Ed Connors, Robin Tindall, Beth Carter, Bill Yates, Beth Roy, Colleen Spence, Amy McMullen, Kris Garnjost, Dave Baker, Katie Ahern, Angie Ladeau, Ed Connors

Meeting called to order at 6:35 PM by Vice Chair Bill Yates.

Changes/Additions: remove Consolidated Program Grant

Public Comments: None

Minutes: April 27

Bill Yaes asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Sean Whalen moved; seconded by Nancy Pedrick; motion passed.

Discussion Items:

Financials: Ed Connors

Central Office running close to budget as incurred costs of COVID close. As of today \$11,000 in the black. Special education is running a deficit of \$468,000. The revenue side could bring the deficit down but feel it will end the year with a deficit. The driving force for the deficit is transportation is \$63,000 over budget and wages are \$347,000 over. When closed on March 18 everyone, as of that date, gets paid full salary. Early Childhood regular education is running a deficit as paid for any student that is a resident to an eligible program. Early Childhood special education is under as is a savings in the director's salary. Dave Baker mentioned the books close on June 30 and reimbursements received after July 1. Amy McMullen asked if our special education students are still being bussed to programs? Dave Baker mentioned transportation stopped when schools closed. Transportation using is private companies and parents as students in different placements. Ed Connors mentioned last year there was a \$600,000 deficit. Katie Ahern mentioned we have to provide transportation but feels have other options. How can we build our own and is being explored. We are looking at how to build better supports in buildings for students. Some students are coming back from out of district placements and starting these conversations earlier.

Bill Yates mentioned creating a program in the district is not easy, but how much is the transportation. Katie Ahern mentioned two schools include transportation in their tuition. The cost is driven by distance. Some students cannot be in a car with multiple people so need more cars. We are relying on small operations and are expensive. Bill Yates feels if do a map of programs, analyze services, there might be the possibility to create a niche program in our district and have a niche for other schools. There are a lot of out of district placements. Katie Ahern mentioned it's finding the right program for students. We are hoping to keep some

students in the district with the goal to create a program. Bill Yates said inconsistent numbers and the way to solve is to create a collaborative with a larger population base. Amy McMullen mentioned when we tried our own program before and working collaboratively, part of the challenge was making sure the environment placed was receptive as it turned into a large challenge and the program dissolved. Bill Yates feels he would be looking at a three year plan to create a collaborative program that is sustainable. Sean Whalen asked if it would be useful to form a committee to study the question of creating a program in the district. Amy McMullen mentioned, if formed a committee, would need to work closely with administration as they will reach out to other districts to work together. We would approve the creation of such a collaborative program. Katie Ahern and the administration should analyze the information first. Dave Baker feels have a budget committee and this summer, in interest of transparency and looks at recommendations. Bill Yates agrees with Ed and feels Hartford programs are under utilized. Katie Ahern mentioned each program has their own characters and start close and look out. Driving force is for students to stay in community schools. Schools know the population and what their needs are.

Resolution Update:

Amy McMullen mentioned no one approached her on a resolution and have until July 1. This has to do with Vermont School Boards Association (VSBA) and how we want to direct their work in representing all school boards in the state. There will be a survey sent out to all members in the district and most questions are around how much school board members are aware of services, thoughts, needs of school board members, what can do better, and what do well.

COVID:

Dave Baker mentioned he gets updates from many agencies regularly. Focus lately is on how to end the year and what is permissible and not for ceremonies and graduations. Working hard with administrators and have it worked out. Graduation at Windsor will work as within the guidelines and restrictions.

Looking at what can happen this summer and how to open up next year. Summer guidance was changing and no assistance in getting protective equipment requirements.

Superintendents in the Southeast made the decision jointly not to run summer programming.

There are two parts as to how it could open up next year:. 1) mechanical and logistical and 2) will it be remote, hybrid, in session. Superintendent decided that some from each region will get together for a full day and try to put a statewide recommendation on how schools should open based on CDC guidelines, Maryland's plan, and documents from the Agency of Education.. Feeling will not get good information until too late in the summer. Internal piece is teaching and learning, in or remote, and what will that look like. We have learned how kids learn, work collaboratively, access the internet, and remote classrooms. Work is by exploring learning and revisiting project based curriculum. Angie Ladeau is leading this with the administrative team and how to invigorate curriculum with integrity and move the system forward. We want to plan based on what learned with a few new guidelines and what supports could provide better;

software, learning management system with resources in it. Opportunity at the end of year to do professional development and give teachers time to plan. Should have plans for the first six weeks remote, partiality in person, or in person. What hearing from superintendents is bringing a plan out to everyone, what worries them is do not want first week in, second remote, in person, remote, etc. Their perception of the virus can impact a district. The fear is what will drive next year. Do not feel teachers will have two curriculums, one for remote and one for in person.

Sean Whalen mentioned identifying and thinking a lot, we think our leaders make plans and what makes history, but is individuals and spirit of what do. We need to embrace that our families will do what they think best. Sean feels teachers will have to offer both. Our families will lead us and will do what's best for their kids. Elizabeth Burrows hopes to find a way to see this as an opportunity to open up doors and not fit the situation into the old model. Time brings us certain opportunities to throw some away and bring some in.

Amy McMullen mentioned not everyone is able to sit at home and do work as some needed to get to WIFI hub and should be part of the conversation that happens now and mid June when making all plans. Having a plan and support with everyone working together would be helpful. Elizabeth Burrows mentioned the idea of the Mountain Curriculum came from thinking to turn things around and using what have. All our schools would qualify as small and can use advantage in this scenario. Some families have lots of internet and some do not, and some do not want kids on screens all day long. Amy Mculen suggested having a lesson plan or project and print out PDF and do it, take pics, write in journal and upload and not just sit watching a screen. Have conversations with teachers, depending on age group, some might only be on line 10-15 minutes and make sure is meaningful and take to working on projects and still learning. Learning can happen anywhere. Elizaberth Burrows mentioned is experiential but not all teachers do that. Cannot forget the parents as teaching different age groups. Nicki Buck agreed with Sean's comment and worked hard to create an online and offline curriculum and worried our parents will pull kids out and will change the SU dynamics. Computer based platform when dealing with special education meetings, teacher meetings, students meeting with students sometimes creates behavioral problems. Dave Baker mentioned the administrative team feels this is an opportunity to change what we do. Angie Ladeau mentioned whatever we do cannot be just this situation but portrait of graduate and proficiency units and work do now will pay off and make school better for everybody. Dave Baker mentioned curriculum work will be by district. Sean Whalen feels will end up doing so called remote learning and some will be in. Amy Mculen feels Sean's comments are true and part of what Angie is alluding to is the need to look at project based learning, take this situation what went through, and use it to go forward and not go backward when going back to the classroom.

New Hires/Resignations:

Resignation: Karen Ammerman, Mary Beth Beck.

New Hires replacements for consultants, open positions.

Hartland: Chloe Balch
Windsor: Emily Urquart, Justin Oisler, Krista Cook
Albert Bridge: Maria Gelsomine
Weathersfield: Erica Yuengling Weathersfield
SU: Kathy Mack
Fiona Moynihan, Early Childhood
Annie Roe, Psychologist
Dianna Ingison- Speech Pathologist

Amy McMullen asked for a motion to approve the appointments. Sean Whalen moved; seconded by Kris Garnjost; motion passed.

Amy McMullen asked for a motion to approve the resignations with regret. Nancy Pedrick moved; seconded by Nicole Buck; motion passed.

Around SU:

Hartland: Sad losing long term teachers and looking to hire positions

Agenda: June 22

Mechanical/Logistical Decisions

Financials

Professional Development Update

Executive Session:

Amy McMullen asked for a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of Title 1, section 313, Personnel and Negotiations. Colleen Spence moved; seconded by Scott Richardson; motion passed. Entered executive session at 8:26 PM.

Adjournment

Amy McMullen asked for a motion to exit executive session and adjourn the meeting. Nicki Buck moved; seconded by Scott Richardson; motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Tessier, Board Secretary