

Mount Ascutney School District
Regular Board Meeting
Minutes
Monday, September 14th, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m.

Present at that time were

Elizabeth Burrows, Chair

Bill Yates

Nancy Pedrick

Kris Garnjost

Amy McMullen, Vice Chair

Admins:

David Baker

Katie Ahern

Colleen Deschamp

Jenifer Aldrich

Kate Ryan

The meeting began and ended with Executive Session. The first Executive Session was called at 6:32 p.m. with a motion introduced by Nancy Pedrick and seconded by Kris Garnjost, and then approved unanimously.

Bill Yates moved to end Executive Session at 7:01 p.m., which was seconded by Nancy Pedrick and approved unanimously.

There were no announcements.

Leader compensation:

David Baker said Kate Ryan, Colleen Deschamp, and Jenifer Aldrich all have 210-day contracts. He said he planned to compensate Kate Ryan and Colleen Deschamp for the many unplanned hours they worked over the summer. Jenifer Aldrich will also be compensated for unplanned work hours. The board profusely thanked Kate and Colleen for not only taking up the slack left when Tiffany Riley was placed on administrative leave, but also all three building leaders for their thorough planning and deft execution of the start of the school year.

School re-opening:

Next week, will start distance learning in the afternoons.

We value what we experience; the team effort to make this happen has been very inspiring.

Staff survey: Overall, off to a great start. Staff feeling safe, most feel confident.

ABS trouble spots:

After-school options

Busing

Dismissal

VTVLC

Assessment

Playground

Windsor trouble spots:

Parents leaving before temperatures have been taken

When to pick up

Remote classes at HS

Long-term planning of foreign language

Trauma-transformed:

- Two groups
- “Champions” team acknowledged all are going through traumatic time right now
- Collaborate with MAH/CPS

Colleen: thankful for survey results, because the feedback provides places to fix

Overall, the start of the school year was a smashing success, way beyond expectations

Tuition rates:

Bill: Pomfret experience, tuition rate much lower than state set (\$10k), but the law is that students must be accepted and entry cannot be denied; sending school does not have to pay for extraordinary costs.

SRO: original contract paid for by degressive grant, with first year paid 75%, 2nd year 50%, 3rd 25% and so on. We remained at the full amount and never updated the agreement; contract is now void as new district. Elizabeth suggested we base our new contract on the one developed by Hartland, which specifies that SRO has no part in disciplining students. Bill mentioned that it is important to include behavior codes that specify when SRO is called.

Amy McMullen made a motion to update the SRO contract based on the Hartland contract; the motion was seconded by Bill Yates. The motion passed unanimously.

Transportation: Ed and David have a meeting tomorrow. Trying to get Student Transportation of Vermont, trying to get them to merge. System needs to be looked at closely and re-patterned. Stop-by-stop transportation is no longer by choice.

Safety training: ALICE protocol adjusted for COVID; fewer drills, educational discussion vs. drills

Nancy Pedrick motioned passage of the principals' report; that motion was seconded by Kris Garnjost and approved unanimously.

Nancy Pedrick motioned passage of previous minutes; that motion was seconded by Bill Yates and approved unanimously.

At 7:57, Kris Garnjost moved that the board adjourn to executive session. The motion was seconded by Nancy Pedrick and approved unanimously.

At 8:59, Amy McMullen moved to exit executive session; the motion was seconded by Nancy Pedrick and approved unanimously.

At 9:00, Bill Yates moved to adjourn the meeting. That motion was seconded by Kris Garnjost. It was approved unanimously, ending the meeting at 9:00.

Respectfully submitted by Elizabeth Burrows