

Mount Ascutney Board Meeting

Monday, December 9, 2020

Minutes

Present at the Meeting:

Board: Amy McMullen, Kris Garnjost, Elizabeth Burrows, Bill Yates, Nancy Pedrick, Rebecca Roisman

Admin: David Baker, Jenifer Aldrich, Colleen DeSchamp, Katie Ahern, Angie Ladeau, Kate Ryan, Ed Connors

Special Guest(s): Lisa Ryan

Additional Attendees: Amanda Yates, Daniel Worts

I. Call to Order by Elizabeth Burrows @ 6:31pm

II. Additions/Corrections to the Agenda

None

III. Public Participation on Items Not Related to the Agenda

Daniel Worts was given five minutes to present his thoughts/suggestions for future action in reference to the firing of former principal Tiffany Riley.

IV. Announcements and Celebratory Comments from Board Members

Congratulations to the school for the Windsor Community Activity Sheet posted in the Tom Marsh e-newsletter, as a wonderful connection between school and community.

V. Discussion/Possible Action Items

A. FY22 Budget

The board was moved and appreciative of the hard work put in by the Administrative team to be clear about the reasons behind values listed in the budget. The board wants to work toward being able to see in budget \$s how it reflects the values for the school. The three principals presented a slideshow to discuss areas of focus and plans for FY22.

There were three grouped areas of focus.

Section 1:

Big Picture (Leave to Learn): Lots of these opportunities have been postponed for now due to COVID.

Flex Path (Act 77): Huge increase due to online learning needs this year.

Portrait of a Graduate: While there was not a huge official rollout, there are daily examples of the first two attributes perseverance and empathy being displayed all across grade levels. These skills are becoming familiar to students in a real and meaningful way.

Section 2:

March Intensives: Will resume in 2022 and will include day trip opportunities for a mini version for grades 5-8 district wide. This time allows for new interactions of students with teachers and in some cases allows students to get out of the Upper Valley to have experiences beyond their immediate borders.

MTSS (Multi-Tiered Systems of Support): Building universal practices including keeping the pod structure that includes SEL support amongst teaching staff pods.

Friday team time/enrichment: Share and operate district wide not building based. Thus allows consistent PD time for staff across the district.

Section 3:

Project Based Place Based: Opportunities are found here to learn and utilize many of the POG skills.

SEL Work: Since 2014 this work has been completed across the SU. The pinnacle of this work is the CPS Philosophy, which is "Kids do Well If They Can."

COVID Take-aways: There's great power in a team culture. The three principals are approaching work with a team perspective and building off each other's strengths. Trying to always "see the rainbow in the rain."

B. Tuition-Private School

The board previously received a request from family of a West Windsor student for payment of tuition to attend a religiously affiliated school. Dr. Baker mentioned there are court cases pending in VT for denying such requests. The board reviewed this matter in more detail in executive session.

Executive Session, exited @ 9:16pm
Motion to Exit- Amy McMullen
2nd- Kris Garnjost
Vote- 6-0-0 to deny tuition payment

C. Trauma Transformed

Holding for next Agenda due to time restrictions.

D. Restorative Justice-Lisa Ryan

Welcome to Lisa Ryan who is a restorative justice specialist from Rutland, who specializes in conflict management and restorative justice in her day-to-day practices. She was invited on behalf of the board to assist the group with steps to take to assist the board with restoring relationships with the educational communities and the community at large. The board is very thankful for her expertise. In considering the questions "How do we move forward? And in what ways?" There was general discussion in what ways she could support the group. A thought for consideration is hosting community forums including all parties impacted. Additionally, Lisa could offer workshops on specific topics, such as micro aggression for the board members and possibly administrators. In closing, Lisa shared with the group that restorative justice is a transparent process and really is progressed as a bottom up approach.

E. COVID Updates

Dr. Baker recently sent out an email notifying families of the change in the school calendar to reflect in-person classes on Monday, December 21st and Tuesday December 22nd, and a week of remote learning for all staff and students in the SU from January 4th through the 8th. He will be monitoring the Governor's press conferences for any updates to the gatherings restrictions. As of his last press conference, athletics remain on hold and will be re-evaluated weekly.

F. Portrait of a Graduate

Administrative team will brainstorm names for a potential facilitator for the "innovation team." More information will be provided at the next meeting.

VI. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of previous minutes

- November 9, 2020
- Motion- Nancy Pedrick
- 2nd- Kris Garnjost
- Vote- 6-0-0

VII. Old Business

VIII. New Business

IX. Future Agenda Items

POG/Innovation Team
Dinah Story, invited member of Windsor Select Board
COVID Updates
FY22 Budget
Restorative Justice-Lisa Ryan
Trauma Transformed

X. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn- Nancy Pedrick
- 2nd- Kris Garnjost
- Vote- 6-0-0

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy L. Moody