

Mount Ascutney Board Meeting

Wednesday, January 13, 2021

Approved 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

Staff: Owen Campbell, Keighan Chapman Eaker, Christie Keeney, and Amanda Yates.

Special Guest(s) :

Additional Attendees: Sally Bemont, Liz Weber

I. Call to Order @ 6:32 pm by Elizabeth Burrows.

II. Additions/Corrections to the Agenda

Changed the order for items of discussion.

III. Public Participation on Items Not Related to the Agenda

None

IV. Announcements and Celebratory Comments from Board Members In recognition of National School Board Recognition Month, everyone thanked our board members for their time and extraordinary efforts.

V. Discussion/Possible Action Items

A. FY22 Budget Preparation

Same budget as presented in December, except that the contract has been settled. Assessments have increased, and that is due to transportation moving to the SU budget from local budgets. The homestead tax rate for Windsor went down .516% and Brownsville is down 1.322%. The equalized pupil rate is \$15,778.98. Overall the budget is down 1%. The board was approving the FY22 budget of \$11,744,125.00.

Motion: Amy McMullen

2nd: Nancy Pedrick

Vote: 6-0-0

B. COVID Updates w/Extended Day Plan

Due to increased community transmission and case counts, the level of anxiety and stress in the buildings continues to be high.

Beginning January 25th, Grades K-8, will be in school for an additional hour. School will start 15 minutes earlier @ 8:15am and end at 1:15pm. This is the last schedule change, so this will remain the format for the rest of the school year.

C. POG/Innovation Team

There is consensus that this is important work that needs to be undertaken when there is time for thinking and strategizing. Based on the reality of full plates for all at this time and their focus being the here and now, this work will remain on hiatus for a bit. There was a specific concern around swelling class sizes, especially MS grades with the district merger. This item will be discussed independently at the next board meeting for consideration.

D. Dinah Story (invited member of Windsor Selectboard)

Invited member is not in attendance, so no conversation.

E. Restorative Justice (Lisa Ryan)

Board told Lisa Ryan that she didn't need to attend the meeting as there needed to be discussion around vision to best utilize her skills. Much discussion on what the best next steps would be. Admin requested the opportunity to specifically talk with Windsor students as they have been directly impacted and never have had the chance to have any conversation. It has been cleared that having any discussions or forums will not jeopardize any ongoing litigation. Strategizing about how will the local board use her skill set, that is different than how she will be assisting at the SU board level. There is a need for healing for the community and those impacted from the events of the summer. And timing of sooner than later would be especially important. The vision for next steps included 4 total forums, 2 for Windsor students with Admin. And then 2 additional forums that might broaden out and include a larger community audience.

Also discussed at this time, presented by Windsor Schools Arts Department Chair was the opportunity to engage in a mural project with the VCLN (VT Community Leadership Network) that would begin in the fall of 2021. With this project there would be access and support to services that would be similarly in line with the restorative justice needs.

F. Trauma Transformed

ABS Principal Aldrich presented her slideshow on this body of work for both districts. The SU has been utilizing the CPS system since 2015. There has been a tremendous amount of improvement in that area in this time, and only continues to get better. There are a lot of staff members that are now Level 1 trained, and beyond that a group of champions with the advanced training. The work continues in both districts. The founding principle of this work is the theory and practice of "Kids (and adults) do well if they can."

G. Police Contract (SRO)

The finalized MOU (memorandum of understanding) was completed by the Administrators and Superintendent. The board reviewed this document, and motioned to accept including the most recent memorandum including the recent addendum for COVID related changes.

Motion: Amy McMullen

2nd: Nancy Pedrick

Vote: 6-0-0

H. Annual Report and Presentation

There was general discussion around student enrollment #s that would be needed for town meeting day discussions. It was confirmed that Windsor will hold a town meeting on 3/2 as a virtual meeting, and voting will occur by Australian ballot. The tuition rate has decreased by almost 50% as those grandfathered HS students graduate out.

VI. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of previous minutes

- December 9, 2020

Motion- Amy McMullen

2nd- Bill Yates

Vote-6-0-0

VII. Old Business

VIII. New Business

IX. Executive Session (Employee Matters)

Motion (enter): Amy McMullen

2nd: Nancy Pedrick

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion (exit) @ 9:34pm: Nancy Pedrick

2nd: Bill Yates

Vote: 5-0-0

Ratification of Master Agreement for FY21 between the Mt Ascutney School Board and Union.

Motion: Amy McMullen

2nd: Bill Yates

Vote: 5-0-0

X. Future Agenda Items

Staffing Patterns, Extended Day Report, Antiracism Task Force, Principals' Report, Supt Report.

XI. Adjournment @9:40pm

Motion: Nancy Pedrick

2nd: Rebecca Roisman

Vote: 5-0-0

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy L. Moody