

Mount Ascutney School District School Board Approved Minutes

Date: Thursday, February 11, 2021

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: Google Meets

Present at the Meeting:

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

Admin: David Baker, Jenifer Aldrich, Colleen DeSchamp, Katie Ahern, Angie Ladeau, Kate Ryan, Jim Taft

Staff: Jessi Taft, Andy Tufts, Amanda Yates, Catharine Engwall, Christine Osgood, Julie Cahoon.

Special Guest(s):

Additional Attendees: Daniel Roisman, Heather Findlay, Jeff Percy, and Janet Farley.

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

II. **Changes/Additions to the Agenda** - None

III. **Approval of Minutes**

a) January 13, 2021

Motion: Rebecca Roisman

2nd: Kris Garnjost

Vote: 4-0-0

IV. **Principal's Report**

Extended Day- things are going well for the K-8 extended day. Students and staff have transitioned and it has eased some stress.

Building Principals are working on creating some social gatherings options for 5th grade students to help ease the transition as those students come to Windsor for JH and HS.

TMP has concluded for the winter session. Overall #s look steady.

Windsor held an Outdoor Winter Day and it was a great time!! A much needed break for staff and students alike.

V. **Superintendent's Report**

The education fund is in good shape so the tax yield is even better than anticipated. Thus resulting in a \$.08 reduction in West Windsor and a \$.07 reduction in Windsor.

There could possibly be a special crossover session for legislation for COVID related bills for FY22. Legislation is looking at the following areas:

- Equalized pupil formula to create a better calculation which would help rural areas like us.
- Healthcare relief to put support staff on an income scale for their contributions for healthcare to make it more affordable.
- Teachers retirement fund.

Administration is working on a recovery plan based on TMP and other known factors impacting students' learning. They will need a recovery coordinator. They are crafting plans now for what this will look like over the summer and beyond.

The Anti Racism policy is in final draft form. It will be reviewed by the committee on 2/22. More to come on the rollout of this to all boards and wider communities.

The plan is to use some time at annual meetings to put some light and information to the strategic plan from the Portrait of the Graduate work. So communities are refreshed of this body of work and will have an early look at the rollout of this plan as the team digs in on the work.

VI. **Public Participation** – None.

VII. **Items for Discussion**

a. Staffing Patterns

* Staying with the Co-Principals model.

* Will be keeping a 5th teacher in the $\frac{7}{8}$ pod to help with the influx of students, and helps with the integration of arts into curriculum.

* During the hiring process for new teachers it is a point of emphasis to be transparent if they are being hired as a looping teacher for grade bands, as needs arise based on enrollment.

b. Extended Day Report

The extra time has gone well and has been a blessing for students, and alleviated some stress for staff. It alleviates the equity issue of any students not having internet access outside the classroom.

c. Restorative Justice - Lisa Ryan

Lisa will conduct one session with Principals, teachers, and board members to assist in skill work. Then she will facilitate a public forum for a panel discussion with the Admin team including Superintendent, and school Board. It has been suggested that an outside firm that specializes in this area of work would be the best choice to assist in the full rollout of the policy to the wider community.

- d. Annual Meeting Plans
Annual Meeting is 2/25@7pm by Google Meet. The principals will present school slides and data. Angie Ladeau and Dr. Baker will present the information on Strategic Plan/POG.
- e. Windsor Police Force Changes
Windsor has hired a new police chief, Jennifer Frank, who will begin March 1, 2021. Paul Favreau will continue as the SRO for the SU.
- f. Update on Status of Building – Jim Taft
 - * Based on the Governor’s order of age restrictions for working, Buildings and Grounds were shorted 7 FT employees effective 3/16/20.
 - * Jim Taft ordered in many items for the effective and safe cleaning that would work on COVID-19. He was able to get bonus masks from a pick-up offered. Shipping and Maintenance areas were moved. Some of his staff were assigned to assist with the packaging of meals.
 - * New guidance released under the Healthy Start 6/17/20, that required the hand hygiene, masks, and 6’ distancing. Work began on making all of those changes in the buildings.
 - * In April 2020 ABS received a pilot indoor air quality grant for \$2,000 so they were able to replace air controllers. Jen Aldrich’s office was turned into the air purification room, costing \$8,900. These were paid with more grant funds and all tallied received about \$22,400 in improvements. Negative pressure rooms were made for all buildings in the SU so fresh air can funnel in 2 hours before and 2 hours after.
- g. FRL Changes – Bill Yates
This was not discussed, as Bill Yates was not present at the meeting.

VIII. **Items for Action-** None

IX. **Executive Session** (VSA.T11 Section 313)

Motion to Enter @ 8:15 p.m.: Nancy Pedrick

2nd: Kris Garnjost

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion to Exit @ 8:42 p.m.: Amy McMullen

2nd: Kris Garnjost

Vote: 5-0-0

Offering of a two year contract for Principal for Colleen DeSchamp and Kate Ryan.

Motion: Kris Garnjost

2nd: Nancy Pedrick

Vote: 5-0-0

Offering of a two year contract for Principal for Jenifer Aldrich.

Motion: Krist Garnjost

2nd: Amy McMullen

Vote: 5-0-0

Crafting of job descriptions that outlines their shared duties and responsibilities by Colleen DeSchamp, Kate Ryan, and Jenifer Aldrich in a shared leadership model for Mt Ascutney School District.

Motion: Kris Garnjost

2nd: Rebecca Roisman

Vote: 5-0-0

X. Setting the Next Agenda

Date 3/8/21 @ 6:30 p.m.

Items: TMP, Restorative Justice, Recovery Plan, Reorganization of Board.

XI. Adjournment @ 8:50 p.m.

Motion: Amy McMullen

2nd: Kris Garnjost

Vote: 5-0-0

Respectfully Submitted,

Wendy Moody