

Mt. Ascutney School District Board Meeting
April 5, 2021
Approved Meeting Minutes

Present at the Meeting:

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

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

Additional Attendees: Estella Attwood, Julie Cahoon, Amanda Yates, Olivia Kelly, Carrie Jewell

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

II. **Changes/Additions to the Agenda**

None

III. **Approval of Minutes**

March 8, 2021

Motion: Rebecca Roisman

2nd: Bill Yates

Vote: 4-0-0

IV. **Public Participation/Announcements**

None

V. **Principal's Report**

- There were Windsor 9th graders teaching 3rd graders how to collect sap for maple sugaring.
- There were 2 COVID cases this month.
- TMP is not completed yet and the window is still open.
- Phone call last week with Risk Management about prom and the news didn't sound encouraging about being allowed.
- New induction of NHS students. A list of students will be provided next month.

VI. **Superintendent's Report**

- We are still battling COVID, as was evident with our 3 recent cases. 2 in Windsor, and 1 in Weathersfield. It's important to remain vigilant, mask up, distance, and wash your hands. Also, in the parent email, families were reminded about travel over break.
- Negotiations are going well. On the advice of legal counsel, letters of intent are really not effective and are more confusing, so instead contracts will be forthcoming. At will and support staff should be ready soon, and teacher contracts to follow.
- Can formally announce the only new position added is Brittany Preston who will work with Angie Ladeau on gathering data related to the ESSER Fund projects.
- ESSER 3 Funds can run through FY24.
- The formal Recovery Plan is due to AOE by 6/1/21.

- The Restructuring Team presented a mock schedule for next year, and it is hoped to be able to share this with families after April break.

VII. Items for Discussion

a) Student Membership on the Board

Kate Ryan went to sophomore classes this morning to find volunteers to listen in tonight. Two students were in attendance for a portion of the meeting. There is a school group that is interested in social justice issues and other issues. Admin expects to find more volunteers coming forward. On Wednesday, Admin will talk with students in interest groups about joining the Board.

b) Track My Progress (TMP)

The window for completion is open until the end of the month. Admin was able to review the completed class of 2024 and current 4th graders. Results showed similar growth and overall the students remain low. ABS reported that they are not finished, but that, thus far, they are impressed by the growth seen and are not seeing any lag due to COVID.

There was lots of discussion about software to use to capture this data and utilize. Currently, only the IT Director and Curriculum Director are well versed in the Performance Matters platform. Training was going to be expanded as COVID arrived last spring. It's hopeful that more training, especially for teachers, will happen by the fall. Having this data readily available could assist teachers on the classroom level.

c) ABS to Windsor Transition Support for Students

Admin and Counselors have a virtual meeting scheduled for April 30th with the current 6th grade students. A second meeting is scheduled for May 3rd, which will also include parents for introductions.

There are currently seven (7) ABS 6th graders, and twenty-seven (27) Windsor 6th graders. They are also working on social gatherings to mingle the ABS and Windsor 6th graders with virtual events like book clubs. Some of the crossover is happening naturally with Admin and students, so doesn't necessarily require scheduling of time.

d) Summer Programming

- o James Aldrich from the Windsor Recreation Center will be invited to the meeting next month to talk about plans and systems in place to keep students safe from COVID this summer.
- o Academics will be completed in the morning session, and the PM session will be for social emotional based activities.
- o The lowest 30% from TMP have been invited, which is around 150 students. The first round of letters to families have gone out and should turn around quickly. They were sent both regular mail and Google form email, in hopes of a higher return rate.
- o It is hoped that, with the ESSER Funds available, this programming can continue for at least three summers and then be sustained as a permanent system.
- o The school, with ESSER Funds, will pay the negotiated rate for students attending the Rec Center camps in either Hartland or Windsor in the afternoons. Some staff will go with

students to those programs based on student need, and staff will only work with students in the Summer Academy programming, not the general population.

e) Financial Report

Lengthy discussion about where the budget sits financially. The District brought a deficit forward of \$137,000 from the previous year. Specifics around line items were discussed, for example the moving of the transportation costs to the SU budget.

The negative symbol on the spreadsheet represents that we're not getting what was budgeted, and the positive means we are getting more than we budgeted for. If we stay on the track, we should have a surplus of \$1.8 million. Some of the reasons for that are: positions went unfilled, turnover, and we budgeted tuition for 31 students and we currently only have 24.

VIII. Items for Action

Tabled these items until the next meeting to gain some clarity on what is needed.

- a) People's United Bank CD Scholarship Accounts (traditional resolution or omnibus resolution)
- b) High School Activity Account (traditional resolution or omnibus resolution)

IX. Setting the Next Agenda

Date: Monday, May 3 @ 6:30 pm

Items: James Aldrich, TMP, Principals' report (to include senior plans, National Honor Society members, end of year festivities), 6th grade transitions recap, Superintendent's report (including COVID updates), summer plans, student rep on board.

X. Adjournment

Motion: Rebecca Roisman

2nd: Bill Yates

Vote: 5-0-0

Respectfully Submitted,

Wendy Moody