

Mt. Ascutney School District Board Meeting
June 7, 2021
Approved Meeting 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, and Kate Ryan

Additional Attendees: Bryce Moody, Christine Osgood, Kim Brinck-Johnsen, and Kim Gogan.

I. **Call to Order** (Introductions if Needed) @ 6:45 pm by Elizabeth Burrows.

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

Add Resignations under VI. Items for Discussion

Add Scholarship Information under VI. Items for Discussion

III. **Approval of Minutes**

a) May 3, 2021

Motion: Nancy Pedrick

2nd: Bill Yates

Vote: 5-0-1

b) April 5, 2021

Motion: Kris Garnjost

2nd: Amy McMullen

Vote: 5-0-1

IV. **Public Participation/Announcements**

Request to have information for afterschool programs for next school year posted to the school website. Information is coming and should be available for posting in July.

V. **Principal's Report**

a) End of Year Activities

Graduations are happening in person across the SU. Majority of them will be held outdoors when possible and appropriate.

b) Summer Program

The theme is passport around the world. Serving approximately 100 students, using 14 classrooms. Class sizes range from 5-11 students. The summer food program will begin 6/28.

VI. **Superintendent's Report**

a. Legislative Updates

Nothing new to share

b. COVID Updates

Next year is looking like it will be a lot closer to a normal year. Still awaiting more specific guidance for FY22.

- c. Shout out from the Superintendent to the Anti-Racism Task Force for their great work. There have been very deep discussions. One more session to go with Dr. Crum.

VII. Items for Discussion

- a) Peoples' Bank Scholarship

There were 3 scholarships paid out by the board. Hayley Fortin received a \$2,000 award from the Bloomfield scholarship. Madison Bowers was awarded \$500 from the Bushor scholarship. Miranda P. was awarded \$800 from the Eli scholarship.

- b) Student Representative

FlexPath teacher Kim Gogan made a presentation to the board about the available options for students to choose a flex path course. Student Bryce Moody spoke about the ELOs and flex path programs he has completed under the Windsor Police Cadets, and an independent study PE program. The school has seen a significant increase in students utilizing this path during the COVID pandemic school year.

- c) MASD Board Goals

There was discussion about splitting the board meetings into 2-1hr sessions and meeting twice a month. One meeting focusing on board business and the other meeting for public business. There was no decision made and this will be discussed further at the board retreat.

- d) MASD Board Retreat

Will be held Aug 9, at the location of board member Elizabeth Burrow's family property in West Windsor.

- e) High School Graduation Decorations

Not discussed as graduation already happened.

- f) Staffing Patterns

Open discussion about looking ahead for staffing patterns at the middle level. There were slides shown to visualize student enrollment by grade at ABS and Windsor. For example there are 4 students in 5th grade at ABS and 24 students in Windsor, 5 students in 6th grade at ABS and 37 in Windsor. There have been some recent staff departures at these grade levels at ABS, and the slim hiring pool has prompted this discussion. Principals did share that they have historically had families from West Windsor request their student come to Windsor due to sibling, and convenience. And similarly some Windsor families have requested ABS, due to small class sizes. There are parameters in place to make those decisions, and they work well. No final decision was made on what steps to take next, and this will also be discussed at the board retreat to determine a vision of what the plan might be moving forward and to establish the related value to making those changes so those stakeholders can understand.

VIII. **Items for Action**

a. LOA request

Rob Johnstone has requested an LOA, as his wife is working in Dubai for two years. The principals and superintendent approved, and preferred his absence in 1 large chunk, 2nd semester next year and have a plan in place for coverage.

Motion; Kris Garnjost

2nd: Nancy Pedrick

Vote: 6-0-0

b. Resignations

Andrew Wood, Martin Butler-retiring, Tony Pikramenos

The board accepted the listed resignations and retirement with regret and appreciation for their many contributions to the community.

Motion: Amy McMullen

2nd: Nancy Pedrick

Vote 6-0-0

The board also accepted the resignation of Kris Garnjost from the board. He had served since 2008 but felt it was his time to move on. The board thanked him for his voice and efforts in the community, as he will be missed.

IX. **Setting the Next Agenda**

Board retreat August 9th to include strategic plan and recovery plan, board meeting structure for FY 21/22, Board Goals including middle level staffing patterns.

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

Not needed

XI. **Adjournment**

Motion: Kris Garnjost

2nd: Bill Yates

Vote: 6-0-0

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy Moody