

Mt. Ascutney School District Board Meeting
September 13, 2021
Approved Minutes

Present at the Meeting: (note P=In Person; V=Virtual)

Board: Amy McMullen (P), Elizabeth Burrows (P), Bill Yates (V), Nancy Pedrick (V),
Rebecca Roisman (V), Davis McGraw (V)

Admin: David Baker (P), Jenifer Aldrich (V), Angie Ladeau (P), Kate Ryan-Ab, Katie Ahern,
and Colleen DeSchamp (P).

Special Guest(s):

Additional Attendees: Julia Burakian, Morgan Guillette, Amanda Smith, and Christine
Osgood.

I. **Call to Order** (Introductions if Needed) @ 6:34 p.m. Elizabeth Burrows

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

Discussion on ABS After School Program.

III. **Approval of Minutes**

a) August 9, 2021

Motion: Amy McMullen

2nd: Nancy Pedrick

Vote: 6-0-0

** approved with amending for clarification of mask thresholds and board
goal.

IV. **Public Participation/Announcements**

ABS After School Program - Ascutney Outdoors is starting an Adventure Club. Emily
Murphy is the Director, Annalise Ennis is the School Contact, and Laura Farrell is
running the programming.

VSBA: September 29th is a Regional Meeting to be held virtually. Secretary French
will be providing information at this meeting.

November 4th and 5th is the Annual Conference @ Lake Morey.

V. **Principal's Report**

There was a presentation shared with the board and it answered the questions
posed to them by the board:

1. What are teachers specifically focusing on in the additional times provided for
them in the afternoons? Are they related to the strategic plan, and how?
 - a. The Monthly PLC schedule was shared and discussed.

2. What type of communications are administrators having with parents? Are these new concerns or concerns related to COVID?
 - a. Welcome back letter, weekly letter, parent concerns being heard are bus routes and COVID compact. ABS had a virtual back to school night.
3. Are administrators advocating or sharing with parents the strategic plans, and are they receiving any feedback?
 - a. Windsor shared in some detail in the welcome back letter, and put links in reminders each week. We have had no feedback. Suggestions, feedback, for more conversations?
4. I would be interested in how teachers and administrators are handling disciplinary issues with students. Is there a process or just a reaction to circumstances?
 - a. Windsor has multiple strategies and differentiates between a major and a minor discipline issue. They employ TAB (take a break), CPS (collaborative problem solving), have a standard behavior form, note expectations in the Parent/Student handbook, and adhere to HHB policy.
 - b. ABS uses responsive classroom techniques that utilize logical consequences which include: break it fix it, TAB, loss of privilege. They identify stress behavior vs. misbehavior. Also they use CPS, have a behavior form, utilize the handbook and adhere to HHB policy.
5. Is the anti-racism policy and equity policy part of conversations and dialogues in the school? How? i.e. newspaper, communication with parents, students? We are investing a lot of time and money into these initiatives. Hopefully we will have something to show and share with the community at the end of this year.
 - a. For Windsor there are groups in the choice PLCs, so they can sign up for an area they might feel passionate about. The first step in the process is finding building leaders.

VI. **Superintendent's Report**

There have been a few transportation issues that have posed some challenges, especially with coordinating routes amongst the respective districts. Lots of progress made and next week should go much better.

Mediation is scheduled for 3pm on Tuesday 9/14.

Vaccine mandate process continues. Thus far no medical exemptions requested or granted. There have been a few religious exemptions requested that will likely be approved. However, if there was a sudden increase in those requests then that could change if it were to result in hardship to our student body by way of lack of teaching staff.

VII. **Items for Discussion**

a) Recap of Goals set at retreat

- Topical feedback with parents and management
- Time management; no one gets to speak twice until everyone has had a chance;
- E.g., pre-k;
- Portrait of a Graduate and how it looks in classrooms;
- Solicit Community Input
- The board will host four open forums

b) Parameters of Minutes

- Put the district mission statement @ the top of minutes.
- Hybrid meetings designate who attended in person (P) and who was virtual (V).
- Add “respectfully submitted” to bottom of minutes with name.

c) Outline steps for Anti Racism implementation w/Selectboards

- Find a board to be the designated liaison to the JEDI committee of the selectboard.
- Schedule an annual meeting with the school board and selectboard.

d) What criteria can we use to measure academic progress for K-12?

- Could college/post grad aspirations be used as a measure?
- Standardized tests and evaluations for moving to the next grade.
- Superintendent will get some data from Dave Nicholson of Battelle who worked with us for Portrait of a Graduate.
- Panorama software will help track soft skills.
- Based on the current model there is considerable financial investment in allowing the collaboration time each day. The cost is calculated to be \$4,922/day and around \$800K annually.

e) Vaccinations

Discussion around the possibility of requiring winter student athletes to be vaccinated. There is a possibility that the Pfizer vaccine will be approved for Ages 5-12 by October. Consider having the Superintendent send a three-question survey to families to inform them of what’s coming down the road, including the required vaccinations of students.

VIII. **Items for Action**

None

IX. **Setting the Next Agenda**

Date: October 4 @ 6:30 p.m.

Items: Vaccinations, District Budget Discussion, Anti Racism Policy.

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

Not needed.

XI. **Adjournment**

Motion: Amy McMullen

2nd: Nancy Pedrick

Vote: 6-0-0

Respectfully Submitted,

Wendy L. Moody