

Windsor Southeast Supervisory Union #52

Board Meeting

Tuesday, August 17, 2021

Approved Minutes

Present at the Meeting:

Board: Amy McMullen, Nicole Buck, Scott Richardson-Ab, Elizabeth Burrows, Bill Yates, Mark Yuengling, Rebecca Roisman-Ab, Annemarie Redmond, Jaimie Turner-Ab, Colleen Spence-Ab, Nancy Pedrick, Jacquelin Antonivich and Davis McGraw

Admin: Katie Ahern, Angie Ladeau, David Baker, Christine Bourne, Brian Martes, Larry Dougher, Colleen DeSchamp, and Kate Ryan

Public: Cory Simonds and Katie Burke

I. **Call to Order @ 6:40 p.m.** by Amy McMullen.

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

III. **Public Participation/Announcements**
None

IV. **Items for Discussion**

a. COVID Procedures for School Opening

Lengthy discussion on COVID policies and protocols for the upcoming school year. Wide consensus to err on the side of caution of students, staff, and especially the younger students not yet eligible to receive the vaccine. The superintendent had shared a memo, including a proposed motion, with the board prior to the meeting. He shared the town data for vaccination information as an FYI. As stated, the benchmarks to be reached will be considered by rates in the building, and none of the buildings in the SU are anywhere near the 80% vaccination rate (of all, not just eligible, persons). Admin feels strongly that the benchmark that is ideal to reach is 80% vaccination rate throughout the building, not just 80% of eligible persons. There are guidelines/suggestions from the AOE that are the foundation for the minimum standards to be achieved and since there is no emergency order the local communities will take ownership and control of what works for them.

Questions were raised including asking how can the school require that after-school providers must be vaccinated in order to work, but we are not requiring staff to be. After-school services are a private party that adhere to our building use standards, as they are not school district employees, per se.

The boards are hopeful that the vaccination data will be provided by the Vermont AOE, however that is a promise not yet delivered, so in the meantime the COVID task force is working on plans to collect this information on their own as they can.

There was one positive COVID case in the summer academy program. The transmission occurred outside the school and based on VDH guidance didn't require any contact tracing or quarantining for staff or other students. Noted is the reality that many young students have spent the majority of their summer in camps, summer academies, and other group-based activities with limited to no spread of COVID-19.

The SU has signed up to be a vaccine clinic location, the date and time for that is TBD. The SU is also signed up to participate in the weekly surveillance testing for students ages 5-7, and that will be done by the school RNs. The weekly surveillance testing is a great opportunity to have baseline data on how effective the mitigation strategies are in the buildings.

There will not be health checks upon arrival at school. Social distancing is recommended when/where possible, however there is no required 3-6 spacing rule.

There are HVAC systems in all four buildings. SU wide we received over \$300K in upgrades to the various systems last year utilizing available grant \$. The systems again this year will bring fresh air in before 7am, and fresh air out after 5:30pm. The custodial staff will once again maintain a high level of cleanliness for those frequently touched surfaces.

There is much more information to know as we approach this coming school year. The SU is in a great position to have a healthy start, and as always, will react based on the changing environment and needs of students and staff to keep everyone safe. In lieu of that, the following motion was made by the board:

The WSESU Board gives the Superintendent authority to modify the District COVID Recovery Plan as needed to provide the safest environment under the current conditions so that students can attend and remain in school for in-person learning. The Superintendent is entrusted to continue to develop the details of the plan. He will rely on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Vermont Agency of Education, and the Vermont Department of Health. He will consult with the in-house COVID Task Force. He will be responsive to board direction and public feedback as conditions change. The WSESU Board and the community will receive updates related to any changes to the protocols. There will be clear benchmarks for the points at which adjustments to the plan will occur.

Motion: Nicole Buck
2nd: Nancy Pedrick
Vote: 8-0-0

V. Executive Session (VSA.T11 Section 313) – Grievance

Motion (enter): Elizabeth Burrows
2nd: Annemarie Redmond
Vote: 8-0-0

Motion (exit): AnneMarie Redmond
2nd: Elizabeth Burrows
Vote: 8-0-0

VI. Adjournment @ 8:35 p.m.

Motion: AnneMarie Redmond
2nd: Elizabeth Burrows
Vote: 8-0-0

Respectfully Submitted,

Wendy Moody