

Mount Ascutney School District Board

Approved Minutes

April 11, 2022

Present at the meeting:

Board: Davis McGraw, Elizabeth Burrows, Nancy Pedrick, Rebecca Roisman, Amy McMullen

Administrators: David Baker, Kate Ryan, Larry Dougher

Staff and Public: Elizabeth Martens, Caitlyn Gould, Amanda Smith, Annalise Ennis, Misty Boutin, Molly Matteson, Tara Howard

I. **Call to Order** at 6:31 p.m. by Elizabeth Burrows

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

- Move Conflict of Interest discussion to 7:30 p.m.
- It was announced that Nancy Pedrick would arrive late, and Bill Yates, though ill, would be present for the vote regarding Conflict of Interest
- High School Language field trip
- Flying the Ukrainian flag

III. **Approval of Minutes**

Amy McMullen moved to approve the minutes for March 7, 2022.

Rebecca Roisman seconded

Approved 4-0-0

IV. **Public Participation/Announcements**

- Elizabeth Burrows read a statement about public comment period; how it's a time for the board to hear, but not discuss, public concerns
- Rebecca Roisman recognized individuals: retired/hired staff; student/teacher of the month

V. **Principal's Report** (Click [HERE](#) for a PDF of the Principal's Report)

- Highlights from each school, senior acceptances, student celebrations in past month
- Albert Bridge Happenings: Maple Unit, place-based integrated learning across age groups; Red Clover has been voted on; Red Fox is new mascot
- Windsor Happenings: K-4: spirit week, poetry month, kindergarten screening (May 12, 13), Windsor Community Dinner (May 25); Grades 5-8: 7th & 8th grade parent presentations, ABS 6th grade visit coming soon, pi in the face; Grades 9-12: upcoming NHS induction (April 18), congratulations Sam Peckinpugh, March for Ukraine (Liam Attwood), Student Council Penny Wars, HACTC Culinary Arts fundraiser, theater arts performance, Game of Tiaras (May 4,5,6,7 at 7 p.m.)
- Class of 2022 senior acceptances and future plans: list of college acceptances + gap year, work force, employment through Flexible Pathway Internship

VI. **Superintendent's Report** (Click [HERE](#) for a PDF of the Superintendent's Report)

General Updates: COVID transmission, staying the course with masking and mitigation; equity audit RFPs are coming in, partnering with Springfield; teacher and staff master agreements are signed; parent

conferences went well; free lunch Wednesdays appreciated; graduation June 10 at 7 p.m. (board members expected to attend); last day of school June 17, noon dismissal.

VII. **Items for Discussion**

- a) Elizabeth Martens presented proposal on Costa Rica trip in February or April 2023, for 10 to 15 students who have completed Spanish 2 and are enrolled in Spanish 3 or 4.
- b) Larry Dougher presented MASD's 5-year Maintenance Plan (on website), worked with Jim Taft to develop plan; added to Items for Action.
- c) Conflict of Interest: Item chaired by Amy McMullen regarding claim against Elizabeth Burrows in her role on the school board and state legislature:
Rebecca Roisman moved to hold an informal hearing on May 9, 2022, at 6 p.m.
Nancy Pedrick seconded
Approved 4-1-0
- d) Middle School Model: Elizabeth asked how an LGBTQ group can meet without requiring parental permission; members of the public spoke; item is on the April 25th agenda for the SU and will be discussed at a parent forum
- e) Intra-District Choice (K-6 in Mount Ascutney School District): There was a presentation on guidelines and procedures around school choice (capacity & resource-sharing) for Windsor and West Windsor families. Discussion included cutoff date to apply, lottery system, siblings, wait list, equity issues such as reserved spots for transient students and transportation both ways. There was a discussion around place-based education and how the plan works in the short-term while long-term planning continues.
- f) JEDI and Declaration of Inclusion: Davis McGraw read the Windsor Select Board Equity Declaration; Elizabeth Burrows agreed to broach topic with the West Windsor Select Board prior to holding a school board vote

VIII. **Items for Action**

- a) Amy McMullen moved to allow students to travel out of the country to Costa Rica next year.
Davis McGraw seconded
Approved 5-0-0
- b) Nancy Pedrick moved to approve the capital improvement items for next year.
Amy McMullen seconded
Approved 5-0-0
- c) Nancy Pedrick moved to fly the Ukrainian flag for 30 days.
Amy McMullen seconded;
Approved 5-0-0

IX. **Setting the Next Agenda**

- Monday, May 9, 2022, @ 6 p.m.
- Middle school model
- Intra-district choice
- Windsor JEDI
- Declaration of inclusion
- Conflict of interest

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

Amy McMullen moved to enter executive session.
Davis McGraw seconded.

The board voted unanimously to enter Executive Session at 9:11 p.m.

Amy McMullen moved to exit executive session and adjourn the meeting @ 9:31 p.m.

Nancy Pedrick seconded

The board voted unanimously to exit Executive Session and adjourn.

XI. **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned @ 9:31 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rachel Navaro