

**Mt. Ascutney School District**  
**School Board Meeting**  
**June 6, 2022**  
**DRAFT Minutes**  
[Virtual Meeting Link](#)

**Present**

**SchoolBoard:** Elizabeth Burrows, Amy McMullen, Rebecca Roisman, Bill Yates, Nancy Pedrick, Davis McGraw

**Admin:** David Baker, Kate Ryan, Jenifer Aldrich, Colleen DeSchamp, Katie Ahern, Kate Ryan, Christine Bourne, Larry Dougher

(Virtual Attendance List attached to minutes)

- I. **Call to Order** at 6:34 pm by Elizabeth Burrows.
  
- II. **Changes/Additions to the Agenda:** None.
  
- III. **Approval of Minutes**
  - a) May 9, 2022  
Rebecca Roisman moved to approve the minutes; Nancy Pedrick seconded.  
Minutes Approved Unanimously
  
- IV. **Public Participation/Announcements**
  - Elizabeth Burrows read a statement about public comment
  - Misty Boutin spoke about the parent discussion regarding self-directed learning (as in strategic plan; with Mike Nicholson)
  
- V. **Principal's Report (Click [HERE](#) for Powerpoint)**
  - Albert Bridge Happenings: full school concert, artist-residents photography (World Story Exchange; hasn't happened but will), Penny Wars (over \$400 raised), kindergarten screening, SBAC completed, robotics 3-6, gardens, Book Buddies with community members (book bags), mix-up days
  - ABS Upcoming: Senior Breakfast, day at the mountain, grade 6 class trip, canoe trip, Graduation
  - Windsor Happenings K-4: kindergarten registration complete (still hiring), mountain day, grade 3 community-garden participation

- Windsor Happenings grades 5-8: interviewing guest authors, grades 5&6 hiked Mt Ascutney, grades 7&8 to hike Mt Tom, work on community garden, grade 8 Passages Ceremony (6/13), next yr: two-teacher team for grade 5 and seven-person team, with interventionists, for middle school
- Windsor Happenings grades 9-12: Senior Night (6/8), Underclassmen Awards (6/9), seniors walk the halls + Graduation (6/10); Alumni Parade featuring Class of 2022 (6/11); full staff closure meeting hosted by Trauma Champions team (6/14), May Intensives a success, MTSS a success, Hartford Tech make up for next year, Ukraine flag is up, credit recovery this summer/incoming freshman/orientation
- Teacher Positions: 2 Elem FT teachers & 1 HS FT teacher taking positions closer to home (shorter commutes) or away due to family moves; special ed positions to be filled—three staff members also to be closer to home (shorter commutes)
- There was a discussion about graduate follow-up and where students are going after graduation (2- or 4-yr programs); info to be provided to board
- There was discussion about the benefit of collective closure regarding healing from last two years.
- There was discussion about graduation being outdoors unless decided otherwise due to rain.
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#### VI. **Superintendent's Report**

- Graduation season: hopeful commencement; end of year for students 6/17, grade 12 graduation 6/10, grade 8 step up 6/13; SU-wide dance for grades 7&8
- Equity Audit Proposals are back; there are four; partnering with Springfield; met with screening team; down to two vendors; interviews on 6/21 with references; to be brought to both boards
- Anti-Racism Task Force had last meeting for school year; will prioritize action steps at summer or early-fall meeting
- Mary Gannon's work, next meeting 6/15, to assist with: board professional development, organizing community forums in fall, putting DEI position together (faster timeline) to coordinate ongoing work; there was discussion about Mary assisting with Equity Audits (vetted by task force or boards) regarding job descriptions to post position this summer; on Christine Bourne's immediate to-do list.
- First SU Board forum (recorded) with BBQ 6/2, spotty attendance (BBQ'd out?) but good product (high quality of discussion); there was discussion about sharing video with local businesses.
- Transition work with Christine Bourne as Interim Superintendent going well

- Transition work with new principal Sergio Simunovic is underway
- Transportation for FY 22-23 between ABS and Windsor; Larry Dougher provided promising update for that as well as transportation needs for Algebra I students in grade 8 next year
- Dr. David Baker's last MASD meeting: he thanked the board for years of support and vice versa from the board plus well-wishes to Dr. Baker at Orleans Southwest (shorter commute)
- Elizabeth Burrows inquired about a van(?) and requested a maintenance update for schoolyards—specifically a broken swing at ABS.

#### VII. **Items for Discussion**

- a) Middle School Model: (see [link](#)); three-year timeline, especially regarding 6,7,8 configuration; to be reviewed in more depth at SU level; there was discussion about funding for increased humanities/arts and decoupling groups; there was a board inquiry for better research resources; there was a registered concern about plans rolling out without board input and community engagement
- b) Update on Student's Post-Grad Plans: see above
- c) IntraDistrict School Choice: documents ready to be sent to families; there was a request for monthly updates
- d) Retreat: will aim to meet last week in July
- e) Teacher Retention (Regular and Special Ed): see above plus ABS (teachers and not): one left due to stress of job, one due to better pay elsewhere, two due to shorter commutes elsewhere; quality replacements are in place

Elizabeth Burrows provided legislative updates: H-293, creation of Student Youth Council, ages 11 to 18, signed into law by governor; 28 people starting November, to discuss youth voice, education, equity & anti-racism, climate change, and mental health; will have statewide hearings and advise the governor and government operations committees of the house and senate. Two misc. education bills—H-716 studies and requires Holocaust education statewide; S-273 no suspensions or expulsions for students under 8 yo and provision of alternative services must be provided to students who are suspended both in and out of school; S-197 provides mental-health support (ample funding) for students and educators, dovetail with telehealth laws passed this year.

#### VIII. **Items for Action**

- a) FY23 Line of Credit: signed by two board members; to be signed by others at the SU office

Nancy Pedrick moved to accept tax anticipation note in the amount of \$2,430,946.02

Rebecca Roisman seconded

Approved Unanimously

IX. **Setting the Next Agenda**

- Including student voice on board; significant resources from VSBA
- Pre-Kindergarten
- Middle school, grade 6 specifically, with help from Bill Yates—or in a separate meeting
- Touch on equity work at retreat
- Invitation from Windsor JEDI Committee to participate 6/23 at 6 pm

X. **Executive Session (VSA.T11 Section 313):** None

XI. **Adjournment**





















\_\_\_\_\_ moved to adjourn at 8:34

Nancy Pedrick seconded

Approved Unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Navaro

Participant	Type	Starting time ↑	Duration
<b>DB</b> dbaker@wsesu.net		6:24 PM (Jun 6)	2 hr 10 min
<b>EL</b> elizabeth.burrows@ws...		6:26 PM (Jun 6)	1 hr 18 min
<b>KR</b> kryan@wsesu.net		6:27 PM (Jun 6)	42 min
<b>MA</b> masdowl@wsesu.net		6:27 PM (Jun 6)	2 hr 7 min
<b>JA</b> jaldrich@wsesu.net		6:28 PM (Jun 6)	1 hr 55 min
<b>AM</b> amcmullen@wsesu.net		6:28 PM (Jun 6)	2 hr 6 min
<b>RR</b> rroisman96@gmail.com		6:28 PM (Jun 6)	2 hr 5 min
<b>CD</b> cdeschamp@wsesu.net		6:29 PM (Jun 6)	1 hr 10 min
<b>CO</b> cosgood@wsesu.net		6:29 PM (Jun 6)	1 hr 57 min
<b>YA</b> yatesw@hartfordschoo...		6:30 PM (Jun 6)	2 hr 4 min
<b>NA</b> nancy.pedrick@wsesu....		6:30 PM (Jun 6)	2 hr 2 min
<b>DA</b> davis.mcgraw@wsesu....		6:30 PM (Jun 6)	2 hr 3 min
<b>KA</b> katie.ahern@wsesu.net		6:31 PM (Jun 6)	2 hr 3 min
<b>AM</b> amber.bennett@wsesu...		6:32 PM (Jun 6)	2 hr 2 min
<b>MI</b> mistyboutin@gmail.com		6:43 PM (Jun 6)	55 min
<b>KR</b> kryan@wsesu.net		7:08 PM (Jun 6)	51 min
<b>CD</b> cdeschamp@wsesu.net		7:39 PM (Jun 6)	55 min
<b>CO</b> cornell.elizabeth@gmai...		7:44 PM (Jun 6)	49 min
<b>KR</b> kryan@wsesu.net		8:21 PM (Jun 6)	13 min
<b>NA</b> nancy.pedrick@wsesu....		8:31 PM (Jun 6)	2 min