

**Mt. Ascutney School District**  
**School Board Meeting**  
**May 9, 2022**  
**APPROVED Minutes**  
[Link to Meeting Video](#)

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

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

**Public:** Amber Bennett, Justin Burrows, Josh Compton, Heather Findlay, Kristin Martaniuk, Christine Osgood, Hudson Ranney, Sergio Simunovic, Daniel Worts

- I. **Call to Order** at 6:07 p.m. by Elizabeth Burrows
- II. **Changes/Additions to the Agenda**
  - a. Conflict of interest discussion moved to top of Items for Discussion
  - a. Sergio Simunovic's appointment added to Items for Action
- III. **Approval of Minutes**
  - a. April 11, 2022
    - Motion to have a hearing was not unanimous - it was 5 to 1 (Bill voted no); Nancy Pedrick moved to accept minutes with amendment; Davis McGraw seconded
    - Minutes were approved unanimously with amendment
- IV. **Public Participation/Announcements**
  - a. Elizabeth Burrows read a statement about public comment
  - a. Introduction of Sergio Simunovic ("Mr. S."), new 6-8 Principal for 2022/23 at Windsor School
- V. **Principal's Report**
  - a) Albert Bridge Happenings: new school counselor; revamping recess; moving into place-based units; *Circle Forward* book on restorative circles; robotics steam project; walk & bike to school was success; teacher appreciation was success; track right progress did beyond expected growth; proposal for 5/6 grades to do out of state trip; ABS upcoming: SBAC: Math/ELA starting May 16; Youth Beatz with Mr. Rich Artist in Residence; All School Performance June 3 at 12:45; Leader in Me next steps; grade 6 graduation June 15
  - b) Windsor Happenings K-4: K registration May 12/13; In K, alphabet countdown; grade 1, theme room transformations; grade 2, book challenge, nature walk/lunch; grade 3, history of Windsor/walking tour; grade 4, Green Up Day participation
  - c) Windsor Happenings grades 5-8: virtual guest author, Aisling Fowler (*Fireborn*); activism book club projects & environmental issues wrap up; adventure day (in 7/8); summer trips are on; grade 8 Passages Ceremony, June 13; proposed grades 5&6 trip: Boston, Freedom Trail
  - d) Windsor Happenings grades 9-12: Game of Tiaras success; boys' baseball cleanup of Mt Ascutney; signing night for athletes; May Intensives; HACTC next year; Ukraine flag up; summer credit recovery
  - e) May 25 Community BBQ (town newsletter and W. Windsor list serve)
- VI. **Superintendent's Report**
  - Equity Audit update: proposals are back; four proposals; waiting for Springfield

- Show of appreciation to Teena Canfield in HR regarding contracts
- Parent gathering with Mike Nicholson regarding student self-directed learning; discussion was robust; possible parent group next year
- Middle level work has timeline; must be vetted again
- Calendar is final for next year
- SU-wide Community Forum: June 2 (forum 5:30, BBQ 6:30)
- Last day of school: noon dismissal, June 17 (SU-wide 7/8 grade dance)
- Equity Task Force update: meet soon; Mary Gannon's work promising; begin May 10

VII. **Items for Discussion**

- a. Conflict of Interest: whether Elizabeth Burrow's work as state representative is benefiting her private interests; moderated by Amy McMullen who read conflict-of-interest policy approved July 1, 2019; Daniel Worts' explained his charge; Elizabeth Burrows responded
  - Bill Yates moved to enter **Executive Session (VSA.T11 Section 313)**; Rebecca Roisman seconded; Bill Yates, Davis McGraw, Nancy Pedrick, Rebecca Roisman agreed to enter Executive Session at 7:30 p.m.
  - Upon return... Vote: Is there a conflict of interest or an appearance of a conflict of interest with Elizabeth Burrows serving on the school board as well as the state legislature. Bill Yates moved to vote on conflict of interest; Bill Yates, Davis McGraw, Nancy Pedrick, Rebecca Roisman, Amy McMullen voted unanimously that it is not a conflict of interest.
- b. Middle School Model: year 1, community engagements to leave or move grade 6; David Baker said task force will be prepared to deliver plan to board in June
  - a. Intra District School Choice K-6 (MASD): Jenifer Aldrich and others discussed equitable transportation; added to Items for Action
  - a. Windsor JEDI: Rebecca Roisman discussed development of plan; June 1 pride-flag raising
  - a. Declaration of Inclusion: Elizabeth Burrows sent materials to West Windsor Selectboard, to be discussed tonight (May 9)

VIII. **Items for Action**

- a. Appointment of Sergio Simunovic: Amy McMullen moved to appoint Sergio Simunovic as 6-8 Principal in MASD for 2022/23; Nancy Pedrick seconded. Approved Unanimously.
- a. To permit 6th graders to go out of state. Amy McMullen moved, Nancy Pedrick seconded. Approved Unanimously.
- b. David Baker moved to support the ongoing work of the Intra-District Choice Committee. Rebecca Roisman seconded. Approved Unanimously.

- IX. **Setting the Next Agenda for June 6 at 6:30 p.m.** (changed from June 13 at 6:00 p.m.)  
 Middle School Model; update on students' post-graduation plans; update on Intra-District School Choice; Retreat in July or August; update on teacher retention and why teachers leave, also for special ed

**Adjournment**

Bill Yates moved to adjourn at 8:55 p.m., Amy McMullen seconded. Approved Unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Navaro