

**West Windsor Meeting
Approved Minutes
June 23, 2016**

Present: Bob Young, Elizabeth Burrows, Nancy Pedrick, Jenifer Aldrich, Dave Baker, Karen Woolsey

Meeting called to order at 3:37 PM.

Corrections/Additions: Tuition Voucher First; Appointment Guidance Counselor David Gale;

Minutes: May 27

Bob Young asked for a motion to approve the minutes of May 27. Nancy Pedrick moved; seconded by Elizabeth Burrows; motion passed.

Tuition Voucher:

Tuition voucher sent out once a year and discussing checking mid-year. Diane Tessier will check residency with the town clerk.

Special Education Update: Karen Woolsey

Bob Young mentioned for special education we are spending close to \$200,000 from 2015 to 2016. Interested in seeing ways to get special education spending in a place that does not trigger percent caps in place so would pay penalties but how can this be done. Can we front load as much as possible and when students leave here they ready to go to middle school without an IEP so we will not pay an additional charge? Every student is special and special education should not be the most expensive for everyone here and should be in line with inflation. Dave Baker mentioned special education is not tied to any quota. Karen Woolsey mentioned the State is talking about different funding ways. When a student is referred there is a process we go through and cannot have dependent on inflation. The way assess back to local towns is tied to real kids, real time, and have seen a shift in demographics.

Special education costs are centralized and some get billed back to current formula. Charging has changed on reimbursements made for extraordinary kids. In 2017 will go back to the SU to be assessed back to the school. Town's share of the responsibility is for all kids in the SU.

Your special educator is .8 FTE and will continue. Students have access to speech language, two paras, and behavioral interventionist. Out-of-district students some have special education tuition, excess costs, alternative placements, and case management costs; such as, clinic occupational therapy, psychologist's evaluation, outside support, physical therapy, visually impaired, deaf and hard of hearing, transportation, director, and admin assistant services.

Bottom line there is reimbursement of 57% on every \$100 and not part of local property tax. Students that exceed \$50,000 the reimbursement rate is at 90%. All tax money and net output is 43%. Assessment was \$200,000 and will get 57% from state. Dave Baker mentioned state recognizes that need a different way of funding.

Bob Young asked if any talk about the philosophy of special education. Is there any conversation of providing services early and when come off of an IEP. Karen Woolsey mentioned there are rules and regulations. Family and infant toddler program services are 6 months of age to 3 years of age. Early Childhood Program picking many up and looking if eligible for EEE IEP from birth to age 5 is voluntary. No way that we can say is required. When child hits Kindergarten screening could be issues that could have been found sooner. Parents can refuse for kids ages 5 and up but schools have recourse if feel student should not be overlooked. This is after the universal system worked with student and targeted programs and then move to multi-level support. Goal is to have kids not be eligible for special education. Looking at eligibility is required every three years. If making progress in the meantime and supports not needed, and can document, then the child can come off.

Bob Young asked about the three year pattern in checking that services not needed. Karen Woolsey mentioned they are still our students and we make the determination. Files maintained in the office and case managers visit schools, go to IEP meetings, and we want them successful. Bob Young mentioned cost wise \$552,529 is way over half a million for 16 students. Is there anyway to be cost effective and, if so, should look at it. At town meeting this puts us in a difficult situation. We need to be conscious of what is spent on special education. Nancy Pedrick asked if all 1:1 for staffing and service. Karen Woolsey mentioned this is the least common way. Most may have 1:1 with direct instructor and small groups. Dave Baker mentioned there are a small number of students in alternative schools and not all in this building as some are in specialized placements. Karen Woolsey mentioned transportation costs can be extraordinary.

Dave Baker mentioned we centralized services but services are tied back to local districts. If could centralize funding could then tie to ADM or equalized pupil. The service plan is done 18 months in advance. Elizabeth Burrows asked if studies have been done on the effect of the drug problem in Vermont. Karen Woolsey mentioned it has impacted children and seeing more kids with learning and behavioral disabilities. Elizabeth Burrows asked if there is a tie between drugs on our children and treatment of drug problem. Jenifer Aldrich mentioned looking at education beyond these walls. Kids are suffering and brains look different -- stress from violence, drugs, economy. If three or more identifying factors; separation, violence, neglect, drugs child will be struggling significantly and cannot function as schools are set up. Working with Mt. Ascutney, HCRS, and Jan Crow as cannot look as living in this building and need to share resources. When in our building we are responsible for them by law. How provide resources in Tier II. Structuring that does not get support unless drowning. We need support for teachers. We have put things in place; such as, guided reading and guided math. Systemic issue not solved by just 1:1. We need people that specialize and teach us what to do. Karen Woolsey not driven by economy and trauma applies to a parent being ill, death, divorce or anything if not able to nurture. Getting more complicated.

Bob Young mentioned this is more effective and cheaper than waiting until later. We hope the next budget does not include an increase in special education. Nancy Pedrick mentioned now we know more about early development that would not have been caught 10 years ago. Jenifer Aldrich mentioned if live in our town we are responsible for their education. If struggling to meet

at this school they will have challenges at the other school. We do a good job of keeping some out of special education.

Act 46:

Bob Young mentioned do not think came to any conclusions and town proud that being proactive. Larger committee is doing a good job at looking at options. We held a community forum and Weathersfield and Hartland have not done any more forums. We have done survey work as to possibilities. We have had public participation from every facet. When left local Act 46 meeting last week, as school board members and committee, felt it was worthwhile at this point in time and heard from state officials the best clarity as to choices. We will go to the next meeting and see where we sit with our four towns and decide if feel opportunities or not and may explore outside the SU. Committee talking with Woodstock and Hartford but not a firm commitment. Interested in doing something. We want to do the best thing for our students in the confines of taxpaying ability. Open to options, collectively look at, and if not work out we can look elsewhere. Nancy Pedrick mentioned that if designate a high school and that if people choose to go someplace else they pay the difference between the state amount. Dave Baker mentioned if designate a high school and agree on tuition rate they accept each student. Down side for designated school is they would have to charge everyone else with choice that rate. You cannot charge a designated town a different rate. If parent wants to send to other than designated school they come before the local board and explain why want to go to another school. If no permission may pay full tuition, and if permission, would pay the difference between tuitions. Elizabeth Burrows mentioned merging is not designating. Is there a way to merge with vote of Australian Ballot? In regard to budget what lose are people coming to town meeting to hear the presentation and discussion. Towns that moved to Australian Ballot the town meeting dies as people come for school budget and is a big impact. Rather have folks show up and listen to presentation to hear what costs are.

Vicki: Did attend Monday's meeting and too many people uninformed. Need to slow the process down and folks very vocal trying to rush process through. Need thoughtful, fact based discussion, as impacts families and towns. There needs to be a thorough vetting of options and rushing vote does not seem prudent.

Capital Projects: Kitchen and Preschool.

Jenifer Aldrich mentioned with new system going in could put kitchen in but is more money and staffing. This is not the time to put the time or energy into a preschool or kitchen. Dave Baker mentioned as Jim Taft is the building and grounds supervisor should get him to talk about what sees as capital improvement needs over the next five years.

Fundraising Endowment: Bob Young asked for a motion to table this discussion. Nancy Pedrick moved to table; seconded by Elizabeth Burrows; motion passed.

Calendar Discussion:

Unified calendar across all four schools and only caveat is sets number of student days, in-service, and parent conferences but left early release days to individual schools. Jenifer Aldrich mentioned she is an advocate for good professional development for staff. Pay them after school hours and summertime or kids leave half days. Half days are disruptive and only time

would be before vacation or long weekend and not productive for staff. Try to find funds and ask staff to stay. Bob Young mentioned he does not like early release days as is a problem for child care as lose after school program. Elizabeth Burrows asked would it be helpful with no early release but better if whole day off. Dave Baker mentioned that is not possible. Jenifer Aldrich mentioned should consider flexible ways but meet some goals of our school in an alternative way. Elizabeth Burrows asked which is more costly -- teachers stay after or alternative. Bob Young mentioned if feel more time in summer or during the year and should be part of job then should negotiate with staff. Convincing students and parents is hard. Dave Baker mentioned he feels full paid days are the best. Avoid half or early release days.

Staffing Patterns:

Plan for next year. Mary Kay Cronin, Kindergarten, and no specific para and high needs; Sarah Day is first grade; Wendy Bodley second grade; Martin Butler is third grade; Marcia Davis is teaching third and fourth grade for social studies and science for .7 FTE and .3 FTE grade 4 Title 1. Patty Harris is combined grades 5/6. Art is on Monday, Music on Tuesday, and foreign language on Thursday. Each class has PE two days a week and guidance two days a week on curriculum from SU and rest on PLP's.

Policy Manual:

Elizabeth Burrows asked for scanned policies.

Robert's Rules: Tabled

Master Agreement:

Dave Baker mentioned that three associations have ratified. Board member who negotiated is the one who signs.

Executive Session:

Bob Young asked for a motion to enter into executive session for the purpose of Title 1, Section 313, Personnel. Nancy Pedrick moved; seconded by Elizabeth Burrows; motion passed. Entered into executive session at 5:10 PM.

Bob Young asked for a motion to exit executive session and re-enter public session. Nancy Pedrick moved; seconded by Elizabeth Burrows; motion passed. Re-entered public session at 5:15 PM.

Appointment: David Gale, Guidance Counselor

Bob Young asked for a motion to approve the appointment of David Gale, Guidance Counselor. Elizabeth Burrows moved; seconded by Nancy Pedrick; motion passed.

Superintendent's Report: Tabled

Principal's Report:

Given by Jenifer Aldrich

Agenda: August 18, Board Retreat

Adjournment:

Bob Young asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Elizabeth Burrows moved; seconded by Nancy Pedrick; motions passed.

Meeting adjourned at 6:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Tessier, Board Secretary