

**West Windsor Board
Draft Minutes
November 17 2016**

Present: Elizabeth Burrows, Nancy Pedrick, Bill Yates, Jenifer Aldrich, Dave Baker, Ed Connors

Public: MaryKay Cronin, Dick Beatty

Meeting called to order at 3:35 PM

Additions: Change order: Proposed Plan will go before budget (b and c); add harassment and bullying policy; number crunching party

Consent Agenda:

Elizabeth Burrows asked for a motion to approve the minutes of October 27. Nancy Pedrick moved; seconded by Bill Yates; motion passed.

Public Comments: None

Discussion Items:

Metering Agreement: Dick Beatty:

I have checked with our attorney and we do not have the final draft for the Proposed Metering Agreement. Proposal is for a 12.5% discount. Originally when non-binding intention filed with the supplier Burgess Mountain Fund LLC they need to do screening and tree planting. The public vote approved by public service board in early June. The site is downgraded from Hotel Road and fencing going around as well as trees. Once certificate issued there was discussion and negotiated the 12.5%. Concerned with exposures town had, worked out a 20% allocation with town's capacity as operator of system and Albert Bridge School. Solar array will produce kilowatt hours. We wanted to make sure that we had a definite percentage of what produced. Other item was that wanted to make sure if we wanted to get out of the contract that could as we do not know what the system will produce and the rules. We did not want to be locked in with no escape. They agreed to give us a 90 day notice of termination if either side is unhappy. There is a limitation of liability so we do not pay more than 87.5% of the benefits. This is the best agreement we will get with this client. We are ready to go forward as long as final draft incorporating everything we want. We do not know who on the school board would sign the document and if there is a service fee. Elizabeth Burrows mentioned she does the signing. Mr. Beatty mentioned there is a late payment clause and be aware that the bill needs to be paid 30 days from day of receipt. The late charge is 5%. We feel will be online by the end of this year. This is not obligatory and the town plans to go forward even if the school board decides not to. It does not make sense not to as are saving something. Nancy Pedrick asked do they charge what Green Mountain Power does. Ed Connors mentioned net metering is pumping back into the grid. They keep track of that as drawing power. The bill from Green Mountain will be 12.5% less. Dick Beatty mentioned this is a group agreement. You can enter directly if put in your own solar panels. We want the opportunity to get out as do not know what the school system might want to do. Rules keep changing and state promoting solar and wind power. We wanted to make the site less intrusive. It is designed to protect the town visibility and location. They are at

the stage where constructing and hoping will be online soon. Elizabeth Burrows asked when we might expect the final letter. Dick Beatty mentioned he hoped to have it by now and knows Mountain Funding wanted these things resolved by the end of December.

Elizabeth Burrows asked what do you need from us. Dick Beatty mentioned Elizabeth will need to come to a select board meeting to sign once we have the final contract. We need to know the school's history of electric use and the town has to do the same with the water system. The water system generated a lot of electric use. Problem had is the booster pumps are located in the basement of the burned out lodge. They are building a new booster pump building on town owned land and hope to be on line before the end of the month to get out of base lodge. Bill Yates asked about the water coming down and restoring power. Dick Beatty mentioned the power comes down and feeds the system to the hotel and home owners. Bill Yates asked about the 90 day opt out. Dick Beatty mentioned once sign the agreement and if want to get out it is for both sides.

Nancy Pedrick asked if Purchase was getting rid of the old lodge. Dick Beatty mentioned before closed on mountain the trust was going to include it but when the lodge burned it was taken out of the agreement. Once closed the town made an option that we would buy it from them for \$1 if the town could apply for funding to raise it. This went nowhere. Currently Ascutney Outdoors has tried to enter into an agreement with SnowDance to raise the building to get the title to it. Not sure how much the cost is to raise the building as there could be a problem with asbestos. Ascutney Outdoors is having a test done on the building to see what it would cost. If they are the owners we would be out of there, building would be gone and they would have 2.2 acres to put what they want. Other parcels have conservation agreement so restrictions on what can be done. The town is not involved in the purchase of the base lodge.

Ed Connors asked, as group metering, can a homeowner be part of it. Dick Beatty mentioned he feels anyone can be a part of it. They are having no difficulty signing groups up. It would be a non-binding agreement. Nancy Pedrick asked if individual households could be part. Dick Beatty feels they want someone with a larger energy agreement. When we get back the final draft we will have it circulated to Ed Connors and the Board. When the select board approves the agreement they will have Elizabeth Burrows come sign. There is no reason not to do it.

Proposed Plan:

Pushed back with budget concerns and thinking of long term goals and working within what got.

Jenifer Aldrich discussed the multi age teaching and the significant increase and evidence based practices. The largest strength challenges are because of social and emotional growth issues. When look at the big picture across the span of grades and teach how to learn together and talk to each other. This develops sense of leadership and autonomy. It is a feeling of responsibility to others as stay with teacher and teacher gets to know you as a learner. There is stability within the system and improves social/emotional learning up to three years and after that not show the same effect. Some evidence in academic but not as much in social/emotional. For small school this is something we should consider. There are some challenges as going against traditions of current system and would need professional development; trying to be responsible classroom; classroom management; instruction, organization and curriculum requires a lot of self-directed work and some peer tutoring. This

develops critical thinking and we started guiding reading two years ago and the impact in the upper and lower grades are impressive with how much growth has happened.

Social emotional there is no documentation that is a negative effect. Discussed that normal societies do not segregate when out in the real world and kids gravitate to kids two years younger or older than themselves. With small classes and mix up gives them a chance to develop other friendships.

How work and for budget reasons how work:

Grade 1/2 would be a single class; Grades 3/4 would be two classes as when 25 kids in the class should split up as not as effective with one class. Want to give students more of an ownership.

The challenge is that we would need a math instructor coming in. Nancy Pedrick asked about aides? Jenifer Aldrich mentioned this is based on the needs of the student and only when child not able to access curriculum. Bill Yates asked if explored a multi age format. Jenifer Aldrich mentioned it takes teachers to have a belief in it. Staff letting her discuss this. She does not feel there is push back not to do but how provide professional development to do it effectively. It is hard to ask teachers to do much more. Dave Baker mentioned proficiency based requirements would be a good benchmark and would lend itself to this. Elizabeth Burrows asked if it would lengthen the academic range of what students accomplish. Jenifer Aldrich mentioned it should.

Jenifer Aldrich feels it is not always good to be with the same kids all the time as this is such a small school. All teachers have seven subjects to teach. We are trying to be responsive to a community being strained by budgets. Dave Baker feels it would be beneficial if could get a grant to do summer work around this.

Budget:

Dave Baker mentioned not much has changed as no hard numbers from what presented last month.

Plan for Approaching Policies:

Nancy Pedrick thought should look at policies done 20 years ago as to what can get rid of. Bill Yates feels it is important to categorize and move forward.

Three Question:

Nancy Pedrick's Questions: 1. Why do we need a school in West Windsor if worried about Act 46? Why need choice? Bill Yates suggested what is the reason for choice? Elizabeth Burrows mentioned these questions are for the strategic plan. Bill Yates feels this ties into the strategic plan. By tying together what is the purpose of the school and development of the child. Elizabeth Burrows mentioned how give every child an opportunity to maximize to their potential. Bill Yates suggested what does ABS bring to the community? Dave Baker feels there is no growing faction that wants to close the school. What is the next step? Elizabeth Burrows mentioned she received the grand list and wrote a sample letter.

Questions for the Letter: How do we benefit from school choice? What does Albert Bridge School bring to the community? What three words describe the qualities you want to see West Windsor Pre-K-12 students demonstrate?

Act 46 Update:

The next meeting is Monday, November 21, at Hartland School. Reading had its community forum and very well attended. General sense toward the plan was not receptive. Elizabeth Burrows has written to Justin Sluka, Reading Board Chair, about meeting.

Policies:

Harassment and Bullying:

Harassment Policy approved by SU goes into remediation and what's on the table is the same introductory pieces with our revision to it. Elizabeth Burrows mentioned our revision should be added to the policy that exists.

Wellness Policy: Dave Baker mentioned the group met and part of what discussing is redoing the policy.

Number Crunching Party:

Elizabeth Burrows hopes to be able to choose between December 2 and December 4? Nancy Pedrick was wondering if should get people's opinions. Would it be wise to put this on the postcard, sending with letter, if interested in joining us to look at various scenarios for sustainability? The date will be Friday, December 2.

Agenda:

Review three questions
Number party results
Budget
Policies – Wellness; Harassment and Bullying
Act 46 Update
Reading Update
Curriculum Update

Administrative Team Statement:

Jenifer Aldrich mentioned the administrative team came up with the following statement: "The WSESU exists to inspire each and every learner to become a curious, confident, and engaged citizen who embraces opportunities and challenges. "

Adjournment:

Elizabeth Burrows asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Nancy Pedrick moved; seconded by Bill Yates; motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 5:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Tessier, Board Secretary