

West Windsor Board
Approved Minutes
March 21, 2016

Present: Elizabeth Burrows, Bob Young, Nancy Pedrick, Jenifer Aldrich, Dave Baker, Wendy Bodley, Mary Kay Cronin

Meeting called to order at 6:35 PM by Superintendent Dave Baker.

Reorganization:

Chair: Dave Baker asked for nominations for chair. Elizabeth Burrows nominated Bob Young; seconded by Nancy Pedrick; motion passed.

Vice Chair: Bob Young asked for nominations for vice chair. Nancy Pedrick nominated Elizabeth Burrows; seconded by Bob Young; motion passed.

Clerk of the Board: Bob Young asked for nominations. Elizabeth Burrows nominated Nancy Pedrick; seconded by Bob Young; motion passed.

Signer of Manifest: Bob Young asked for nominations. Nancy Pedrick nominated Bob Young; seconded by Elizabeth Burrows; motion passed.

SU Bargaining Council: Bob Young asked for nominations. Nancy Pedrick nominated Elizabeth Burrows; second by Bob Young; motion passed.

Truant Officer: Bob Young asked for nominations. Elizabeth Burrows nominated Jennifer Frank; seconded by Nancy Pedrick; motion passed.

Newspapers: Bob Young asked for a motion to designate the Vermont Standard and Valley News. Nancy Pedrick moved; seconded by Elizabeth Burrows; motion passed.

Time, Place, Date: Bob Young asked for a motion to move the meeting to the last Thursday of the month, 3:30 PM, in the School Library. Nancy Pedrick moved; seconded by Elizabeth Burrows; motion passed.

Agenda Revisions: Adding Executive Session and rotation of SU Directors

Minutes: January 26

Bob Young asked for a motion to approve the minutes of January 26. Elizabeth Burrows moved; seconded by Nancy Pedrick; motion passed.

Public Comments: None

Budget Numbers: No discussion needed.

Act 46 Update:

Elizabeth Burrows mentioned that whenever someone attends the Act 46 Study Committee meetings they should disseminate, to the board, what happens at the meeting as much as possible. Dave Baker mentioned at the last meeting they decided to break into sub-committees to do research. The sub-committees are: 1) debt, capitalization, reserve funds; 2) regional high school--pros, cons, and ramifications; and 3) real estate. The next meeting is March 29. Bob Young asked about deadlines. Dave Baker mentioned the decision was made to wait on voting. A vote should be taken by July 1, 2017 to take advantage of any tax incentives. If go into 2017-2018 without a vote, West Windsor loses the school grant.

Legislative Update:

Dave Baker mentioned they are in session now. Other than action on the equalized pupil cap and eliminated it next year, they have not done much on Act 46. Elizabeth Burrows feels that the special education bill might answer our assessment question. A bill that is still on the table, amendment to Act 153, would allow an operating high school district to merge as smaller SU and the choice schools to merge, as a side-by-side.

Food Service - Geographical Preference:

Dave Baker mentioned the contract for management of Food Service is with Cafe Services for all four towns -- Hartland and Weathersfield just for the food, but keep own employees. Geographical preference means that some on Farm to School and the Wellness Committee are concerned that not using fresh locally grown fruits and vegetables. Cafe Services uses Black River Produce, which uses local farms, but those are in the Brattleboro or Bennington area. They would like Cafe Services to use Hartland or West Windsor farms. Cafe Services mentioned they can carve out where want to draw food from. How do we define local produce -- four towns, Upper Valley, etc. Elizabeth Burrows feels that possibly could be 75% within a certain range and 25% another range. Bob Young feels would have to blend due to availability certain times of the year. They should try to use local farmers as much as possible unless unavailable or price prohibitive. Elizabeth Burrows agrees but feels Cafe Service would need to contract with non-local during the year to get a good price. Elizabeth feels we should support the local economy.

Rotation of SU Directors:

Dave Baker mentioned the director's would give brief reports once every three months. Elizabeth Burrows will work on a schedule.

Action Items: None**Superintendent Report:**

- Trying to set up an SU Board Retreat to go over SU Strategic Plan.

Principal Report:

- Budget approved for next year and will start discussing with staff the student needs for next year
- Starting heirloom seed project in collaboration with Reading Library. Will harvest seeds and can use them for future use. This is a Farm to School theme. Going to contract with the local library and Reading Green House.

- Need to figure out composting services for our school by July.
- Challenge with funding for all learners and looking for alternative funding. We expect high quality education for students. We are looking at ways to creatively fund. This year alone, for volunteer work for HQT teachers, would have spent over \$80,000. Impressive demonstration of the desire of the staff to meet the need of our students but is not sustainable. Applying for grants -- technology grants, need new laptops, chromebooks; enrichment and extended day learning (art classes, additional after school sports, hikes -- extended day for those that need additional help). Received \$10,000 from the Dorothy Byrne Foundation to support Summer Festival on the Mountain (concert on mountain, food festival, nature festival); looking to do summer camp during the month of July. If full week parents could count on that (four different sessions -- nature, music, movement/athletics, and theater). Possibly opening to people outside West Windsor and feels would be a good idea.
- Curriculum: Teachers meeting monthly with grade-a-like teams. Math getting training through Eureka specialist.
- Hartland has been investing in a science curriculum through Carolina Science -- unit of learning in science and offered to let us use some of their materials to explore it. Mary Kay Cronin mentioned the K-2 Hartland teacher came in and made balance scales with our students. Mary Kay feels this is a terrific program. Materials are concise, age appropriate, and hands on lesson.
- March 11 -- SU staff met for collaborative problem solving. Moving to create local experts as intense shift of thinking. There are 30 in Tier 1 Training and seven in Tier 2 Training. Monday's this month we are doing parent collaborative meeting. Meeting weekly for Tier 2. Jenifer Aldrich has taken the leadership role and by summer will be trained in Tier 1 Training.

Agenda: (April 28)

Act 46 Update

Financials

Summer Program

Executive Session:

Bob Young asked for a motion to enter executive session for the purpose of Title 1, Section 313, Personnel. Elizabeth Burrows moved; seconded by Nancy Pedrick; motion passed. Entered into executive session at 7:56 PM.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Tessier, Board Secretary