

**Windsor/West Windsor Board
Draft Minutes
November 1, 2018**

Present: Elizabeth Burrows, Amy McMullen, Beth Carter, Kris Garnjost, Bill Yates, David Baker

Not Present: Nancy Pedrick

Phone conference meeting called to order at 6:00 PM.

Shelly Seward asked was name based on vote or people make suggestions. Elizabeth Burrows mentioned received about 25 suggestions and crossed off ones pertaining to one town, those that had Mount Ascutney as Mt. and left with 3 or 4. Amy McMullen feels Mill Brook defines both towns but would be obscure and be explaining ourselves all the time. Only concern is also in process of coming up with a new name for SU and could be Mount Ascutney. We did hard work in both towns and should be Mount Ascutney School District and this way anyone could join us.

Public Comments: A community member mentioned would like information on what going on regarding SU.

Discussion Items:

School District Name:

Elizabeth Burrows feels Mount Ascutney North implies is a south and should be disregarded. The board agrees. That leaves us with Mill Brook and Mount Ascutney. Elizabeth asked if anyone had positive thoughts on Mill Brook. Elizabeth Burrows asked for a motion to adopt Mount Ascutney School District as the name for the merged district. Amy McMullen moved; seconded by Kris Garnjost. Vote by roll call: Amy McMullen, yes; Kris Garnjost, yes; Beth Carter, yes; Elizabeth Burrows, yes; Bill Yates, yes. Unanimously voted to adopt Mount Ascutney School District as the name for the merged district.

Resolution to State Board:

WHEREAS two years of good faith and arduous 706(b) committee work in moving towards merging districts under Act 46 did NOT include any sort of supposition regarding redrawing Supervisory Unions boundaries;

and WHEREAS our Supervisory Union, as currently configured, has already invested substantial monies and efforts in adherence to Acts 153 and 156 (fully unified curriculum, contracts, special education, administration, transportation and other areas);

and WHEREAS the stated mission of Act 46 is to reduce district numbers and improve sustainability which realigning does not achieve;

and WHEREAS redrawing Supervisory Union boundaries has in it potential for substantial increases in transportation and technology costs;

and WHEREAS there is no current relationship among the Supervisory Unions of Windsor Southeast Supervisory Union, Hartford School District, and Springfield School District;

and WHEREAS the predominant orientation (jobs, shopping, recreation) in the communities represented by Windsor Southeast Supervisory Union (Windsor/West Windsor, Hartland, and Weathersfield) is north, towards the Upper Connecticut River Valley, not south, towards Springfield;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Transition Board of the newly-merged Mount Ascutney School District **strongly opposes any imposed Supervisory Union realignment that would break up the Windsor Southeast Supervisory Union.**

Bill Yates mentioned in last sentence that merger would break up Windsor Southeast and do not feel any merged SU would break up and term would be disruptive. Beth Carter asked if we are including Weathersfield and Hartland or just on behalf of new district. Elizabeth Burrows mentioned just the new district but will bring up at Carousel Meeting on Monday. Dave Baker mentioned this has not been discussed with Hartland and Weathersfield and what more powerful is if discuss in Carousel Meeting. Elizabeth Burrows mentioned we are one school and should show up at the state meeting as one. Amy McMullen mentioned we only have control over own district. Bill Yates mentioned the other school districts are run by their boards. Bill mentioned he read an article in the Valley News and summed up that reviewed state board's decision but understanding that state board not made a decision on merging SU. Elizabeth Burrows mentioned this is on their agenda for November 14.

Bill Yates mentioned talking about not splitting Windsor Southeast but merging with Hartford or creating super school district including Windsor Southeast, Hartford, and Springfield. Elizabeth Burrows asked under what authority. Bill Yates mentioned state board has authority to merge. Talking about possibility of Hartford/Windsor Southeast SU or Hartford/Windsor Southeast/Springfield SU. Elizabeth Burrows mentioned from what so far mentioned in final plan was peeling off Hartland and sending to Hartford and rest to Springfield. Dave Baker mentioned once get final word on meeting in Williamstown on November 14 he feels some of the board should go. Elizabeth Burrows feels that by that time the decision will be made. Elizabeth feels should wait until after election day and then write letters. Do not feel any turning back on November 14. Bill Yates agrees on some extent; but feel by November 14 they will not have come out with all decisions on forced mergers. Do not think will get far enough to announce merged SU's. Elizabeth Burrows mentioned there are a few schools left. The meeting on November 14 is scheduled from 8:30-4:30. It would be foolish not to act. Bill Yates mentioned the act is based on resolution. Beth Carter asked if, at SU discussion on Monday, will we share a similar draft for people to act on it. Dave Baker mentioned Weathersfield and Hartland have had very brief discussions on it and say want to stay together as an SU. In their alternative plans argued that Weathersfield goes south and Hartland gravitates north. How will they go about advocating? Dave Baker mentioned not to be an alarmist but in conversations with Dan French and superintendents they are seriously considering realigning SU lines. They see this as another cost cutting measure. Elizabeth Burrows feels should get resolution out to all board chairs that could adopt before SU meeting.

Community member asked what does resolution do for you and how take back control? Elizabeth Burrows mentioned it says that we do not want to be broken apart. Community member feels will have to make choice in next five years. Bill Yates mentioned the resolution comes down to that this SU, including our newly merged district, does not want to be broken up but does not mean not merged with another SU in the future but do not want to be split. Amy McMullen mentioned this resolution and the SU not broken up gives us an opportunity to begin talk to create mega SU's and better if we are in the driver seat. Dave Baker mentioned during 706 (b) meetings super district came up and real decision was that if persevered our own integrity and school in West Windsor and breaking up in two small parts would not help any of our districts.

Amy McMullen feels we should include Act 156 on the resolution. Elizabeth Burrows asked for a motion to approve the resolution to send to State Board of Education. Amy McMullen moved; seconded by Bill Yates. Vote: Bill Yates, yes; Kris Garnjost, yes; Beth Carter, yes; Amy McMullen, yes; Elizabeth Burrows; yes. Unanimously approved.

Elizabeth Burrows asked for a motion to adjourn the conference call meeting. Bill Yates moved; seconded by Kris Garnjost. Vote: Bill Yates, yes; Kris Garnjost, yes; Beth Carter; yes; Amy McMullen yes, Elizabeth Burrows, yes.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Tessier, Board Secretary