

Windsor Central Supervisory Union
Windsor Central Unified Union School District
Board of Directors Monthly Meeting
November 7, 2022, 6:30 p.m.
[Virtual Zoom meeting recording](#)

Board Members Present:

Barnard:

Bryce Sammel

Bridgewater:

Lara Bowers (virtual)

Killington:

Jim Haff

Plymouth:

Elliot Rubin (virtual)

Pittsfield:

Ray Rice (virtual)

Pomfret:

Bob Crean (virtual)

Lydia Locke

Reading:

Adam Ameele (virtual)

Anna Sessa (virtual)

Woodstock:

Ben Ford

PJ Eames

Keri Bristow

Sam DiNatale (virtual)

Todd Ulman (virtual)

Superintendent: Sherry Sousa

Interim Director of Student Support Services: Shayna Kalnitsky

Director of Instructional Technology: Raphael Adamek

Director of Finance and Operations: Jim Fenn

Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment: Jennifer Stainton

District Buildings & Grounds Manager: Joe Rigoli

Director of Human Resources:

Principals/ Administration: Mary Guggenberger (virtual), Aaron Cinquemani (virtual), Maggie Mills (virtual), Melissa Zoerheide (virtual)

Student Representatives: Owen Courcey (virtual), Aidan Keough-Vella (virtual)

Presenters: Patty Kelly, Luis Bango, Beth Hayslett, Marlena McNamee

Recording Secretary: Rayna Bishop (virtual)

1. **Call to Order:** Keri Bristow called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
2. **Amendments to the Agenda:** Keri calls for any amendments to the agenda, and states that she has one. Jim Haff makes a motion to “approve the agenda that may be amended.” Todd Ulman seconds. All in favor. Jim Haff makes a motion to remove the first reading of the grading policy from the agenda. Seconded by Todd Ulman. Extensive discussion ensues. The motion fails with the following roll call vote:
 - “Yea” In favor of removing the policy from the agenda- ~~Anna Sessa~~ (changed vote after clarification), Adam Ameele, Ray Rice (though verbal intent may have been to vote nay), Todd Ulman, PJ Eames, Jim Haff
 - “Nay” Against removing the policy from the agenda- Anna Sessa, Bob Crean, Lara Bowers, Sam DiNatale, Lydia Locke, Ben Ford, Elliot Rubin, Bryce Sammel, Keri Bristow

Keri also moved agenda item 5C to before 5A, seconded by Jim Haff, and stated the need for an Executive Session. All in favor of the changes.

3. **Public Comment:** Public comment from Jon Spector, member of the Woodstock Economic Development Commission. He discussed the EDC priority of investing in childcare for the town. He conveyed strong support from the EDC to offer financial assistance to help evolve or expand childcare within the school.
4. **Reports:** The full written reports can be found in the board book. Sherry quickly discussed the 2nd Annual Student Leadership Summit. Raphael Adamek highlighted the wiring RFP that was released, and the responses. He also discussed state reporting and where the district was in the process. Questions about students attending private schools were heard.

At this point, a question was posed by Adam Ameele regarding the After School Program status. Sherry shared a report by Erin Bucher, the district's Extended Learning Coordinator, with the efforts to date and the results of those efforts. Todd Ulman refuted the information that was presented, feeling that the information presented was incorrect. Jim Haff discussed again how Killington handled the After School situation. Bryce Sammel asked if Erin could come to the next meeting to present on the situation in person, rather than through notes from the Superintendent's report. Ben Ford suggests a task force or working group should be formed to deal with this complex problem. Sherry discussed the process in place of working with community partners, such as Killington does, but it takes time to get everything in place. Adam expressed his concern that the board would not have received an update if he hadn't asked, and his concern that a full time employee has been hired to oversee after school programming, and it hasn't improved. Keri called on board member to step forward and join a task force or working group, and let her know who would like to work on this to move it forward.

Shayna Kalnitsky discussed the budget process for the special education program, and thinking outside of the box to really take an inventory of the assets they have and the distribution of those assets. She mentioned the rule changes coming out in July 2023, and discussed what is new and how they are getting the information out to the team.

Dr. Jen Stainton shared the updates on the process of achieving the goals of the Portrait of a Graduate and how achievements are assessed. She also spoke about invitations that have been sent out to families of students receiving Title I services, which encourage them to attend a meeting to discuss parent and family engagement policies and procedures that are school level. At the request of Jim Haff, Jen delivered a summary on the Portrait of a Graduate to give the new board members background information on the development and intent of the PoG.

Jim Fenn discussed the work on the budget, and grants that have been recently received. One of the grants is for three electric buses and a charging station. His office is working on an air quality upgrade for many of the schools, and getting grants to fund new equipment. He delivered an update on the new finance software conversion, and an update on the visits from the auditors.

Student reports- Owen Courcey and Aidan Keough-Vella discussed their time at the Student Leadership Summit and current student activities.

5. **Time Scheduled Discussion:**

- a. FERPA Presentation- Marilyn Mahusky, an attorney with Stitzel, Page, & Fletcher, delivered a presentation on FERPA and access to student records. She discussed what FERPA is, what the requirements are, and what the prohibitions are.
- b. [Fall Data Presentation](#)- Dr. Jen Stainton, Patty Kelly, and Raphael Adamek delivered a presentation on academic data collected from the fall, with the purpose of raising awareness about new state level data changes that are forthcoming, explanation of the universal assessment system, sharing information on data walls and how data walls influence how we serve our students, and explore district-wide data. The presentation culminated with the sharing of reflections from teachers and administrators across the district around the data.
- c. [C3 Presentation](#)- Strategies 4.3 & 4.5- Luis Bango and Beth Hayslett presented on C3 (Center for Community Connections) and what they are about. They discussed the goals of C3, and where they were with meeting those goals.

(5-minute break)

6. **Committee Updates:**

- a. Finance: Ben Ford and Jim Fenn delivered a presentation on the budget process and where the committee is with the FY24 budget, and anticipated tax implications.

[FY24 budget projections](#)

[Bond model](#)

Ben discussed setting the FY24 tuition rate, and the reason for the recommended rates. Motion to set the tuition rates for FY 24 at \$19,649 for HSMS, and \$17,000 for elementary school. Moved: Jim Haff. Seconded: Sam DiNatale. All in favor.

- b. Policy:

- i. Adoption:

C1 – Education Records. Motion to adopt. Moved: Jim Haff. Seconded: Sam DiNatale. All in favor.

F2 – Nondiscriminatory Mascots and School Branding. Motion to adopt. Moved: Jim Haff. Seconded: Sam DiNatale. All in favor, with Jim Haff abstaining.

- ii. First Reading:

Grading - Elliot Rubin explained the proposed changes and the reasoning. Motion to table. Moved: Ben Ford Seconded: Sam DiNatale. All in favor.

Capital Debt Repayment- Elliot Rubin and Ben Ford discussed points of the policy. Motion to table. Moved: Jim Haff. No second. Motion to move to a second reading. Moved: Jim Haff. Seconded: Todd Ulman. All in favor.

- c. Buildings & Grounds: Joe Rigoli delivered an update on projects.

- d. Negotiations, Hiring, & Retention: Adam Ameele shared that final proposals are being presented and they are getting close to finalizing negotiations.

- e. Working Groups:

CEWG - Owen Courcey and Aidan Keough-Villa discussed the proposed names for the district and how they arrived at these choices. The next step is to get feedback from stakeholders.

New Build WG – Ben Ford shared a presentation on the [updated pages of the website](#).

Marlena McNamee delivered a fundraising report. [Fundraising report](#)

7. **Consent Agenda**- Motion to approve consent agenda. Moved: Jim Haff. Seconded: Bryce Sammel. Discussion about minutes; add John Hansen to attendance. Discussion about resignations. All in favor, motion passes.
8. **Public comment**: Roger Rivera (Killington) asks how many students the district may be missing (due to private school enrollments) and how many students they project attracting with a new build. He also recommends separating the bond requests out into one bond for capital improvements and a separate bond for the new build planning, both for transparency and to see where voter support lies.
9. **Executive Session**: Motion to enter executive session at 10:38 p.m. to discuss a student matter. Moved: Jim Haff. Seconded: Todd Ulman. All in favor.
10. **Reflection**: none
11. **Adjourn**: Motion to adjourn at 10:45 p.m. Moved: Ben Ford. Seconded: Jim Haff. All in favor.