

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of AMHERST EXEMPTED VILLAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Regular  
Meeting

Held @ Amherst Junior High Creative Learning Center @ 5:30 p.m. Feb. 26, 2024

Each meeting of the Amherst Board of Education is held in public for the purpose of conducting the School District’s business and is not to be considered a public community meeting. There is a time for public participation during the meeting as indicated on the agenda.

The meeting was called to order by President, Marc Zappa at 5:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll call:  
Marc Zappa, present, Teresa Gilles, present; Rex Engle, absent; Amanda Messer, present; Morgan Wachholz, present

Mike Molnar, Superintendent, present; Amelia R. Gioffredo, Treasurer/CFO, present.

This meeting and the notices of all meetings are in compliance with O.R.C. 121.22. This Board of Education shall discuss in Executive Session only those items allowed in O.R.C. 121.22.

2024-02-01

It was moved by Gilles and seconded by Wachholz to adopt the agenda as presented, including any addenda.

Roll call vote:  
Gilles, aye; Wachholz, aye; Messer, aye, Zappa, aye

- Good News Report by Andrew Gibson, Amherst Junior High School Principal
- Coach Jonathan Limpert – The 8<sup>th</sup> grade football team had a very successful season. Introduced the following players:
    - Kris Hoopes
    - Ethan Vincent
    - Kevin Reichert
    - Alex Rivera
    - Nolan Gamble
    - Parker Ciu
  - Wendy Kerschner – provided an overview of the Gamers Club

The Public Participation section of the Board of Education’s agenda is specifically designed for the public to address the Board with their compliments and/or concerns. The Board welcomes and appreciates your comments. If you wish to address the board regarding a problem, please consider the following:

- First, your comments should be factual and respectful of the rights of others.
- Second, before addressing the board with a specific problem, it is the Board’s hope that you have first addressed the problem with the appropriate teacher, staff member, or administrator.

Individual statements should not exceed five (5) minutes and the total time shall be a maximum of thirty (30) minutes.

(If planning to address the Board, please complete the sign-in sheet).

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- None

Treasurer’s Report: Mrs. Amelia Gioffredo

- Presented the year-to-date revenue/expenditures by forecast line and reviewed the percent to forecast.
- Reviewed “By the Numbers” for the Treasurer’s Office work.
- Presented a timeline of behind-the-scenes activities for preparation for debt issuance.
- Board discussion - Mrs. Wachholz and Dr. Messer asked for the Treasurer’s PowerPoint timeline slide to be sent to them. Mrs. Gilles requested clarification on the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) regarding the construction of the new facilities. Mr. Zappa inquired about the criteria for reviewing the experience of the construction manager that would be selected through the RFQ process.

2024-02-02

It was moved by Gilles and seconded by Wachholz to approve the following:

A. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education amend and/or approve the board minutes for the 1/22/2024 Regular Board meeting.

B. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education approve the treasurer’s financial reports for the month of January 2024, as **per exhibits 8A, 8B, 8C, and 8D.**

C. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education approve the revision of appropriations and the “412 certificate” as **per exhibit 8E.**

D. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education approve the following advance of funds:

- \$ 137,277.35 from 001-0000 to 507-9223

E. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education accept and acknowledge the receipt of the following donations to the Amherst Schools:

- A \$500 donation from Amherst United Methodist Church to be used to pay for lunches for needy students in Amherst schools.
- An anonymous donation of a crate PA 4 System to M.L. Steele to use in any capacity needed, valued at \$200.
- Dave Rice, Cannon Representative, for a donation of a Canon Imageprograf PRO-6100’s, to M.L. Steele, valued at approximately \$11,000.
- Amherst Eagles #1442, for a \$1,000 donation to be used towards the expenses for the April 19, 2024, Military breakfast.
- American Legion Post 118, for a \$1,000 donation to be used towards the expenses for the April 19, 2024, Military breakfast.
- Prevention FIRST! for a \$5,000 donation to the Amherst Schools, treasurers SOS grant.

Roll call vote:

Gilles, aye; Wachholz, aye; Messer, aye; Zappa, aye

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Administrative Reports:

Mr. Mike Molnar, Superintendent

Notes:

- Attended the Lorain County Alliance of Black Educators program held at Lorain County Community College which recognizes the academic achievements of students on February 25, 2024.
- Transportation update – AJH release and traffic
- Board discussion – members asked questions about the procedures for student release at AJH. They inquired about the ramifications for those who do not abide by the directions for the release of students.

Mrs. Sarah Walker, Assistant Superintendent

Notes:

- Highlighted the collaborative projects between buildings.
  - Marion Mentoring & Big Comets/Little Comets
  - Best Buddies: Powers, AJH, and Steele
  - Best Buddies Friendship Walk will take place on April 28, 2024, at Crocker Park – Westlake
  - ROX: Ruling Our Experiences
  - Amherst Schools Backpack Program sponsored by Ziggy’s Amherst Lions, and the Good Shepherd Baptist Church.
- Board discussion – members inquired about how anyone could participate in the Best Buddies Friendship Walk. Mrs. Gilles asked to have the QR code shared with her. Mr. Zappa thanked the board members for their contributions to the Amherst Schools Backpack Program.

Mr. Rex Engle, JVS Representative

Notes:

- None

Board Updates/Discussion/Committee Reports

Committee Report

Legislative:

Dr. Messer presented the OSBA President Goals for 2024.

2024-02-03

It was moved by Gilles and seconded by Messer to accept the following:

A. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education accept the following resignations as indicated and authorize the Superintendent and/or Treasurer to execute any necessary documents relating to separation of employment:

- **Molly Acheson**, Intervention Specialist, Nord, effective 5/31/2024
- **Zachary Bellis**, Substitute Teacher, effective 1/28/2024
- **Alexandra Charles**, Comet Kids Aide, Powers, effective 1/26/2024

B. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education employ the following individual(s), as indicated, on a 30 or 60-day probationary contract, for the 2023-2024 school year pending completion of all employment requirements, including but not limited to a

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background check. Proper placement on the negotiated salary schedule pending verification of all prior experience:

- **Matthew Sampson**, 60-day probationary contract, Custodian II/Cleaner, M.L. Steele, effective 3/11/2024

C. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education employ the following individual(s) as certified and/or classified substitutes for the 2023-2024 school year, as indicated, with compensation at the board-approved substitute rates pending completion of all employment requirements, including, but not limited to licensure/certification (if required) and a BCI & FBI background check:

**CERTIFIED**

- Michael Czarney**, effective 1/29/2024
- Katherine Kuncel**, effective 1/29/2024
- Melanie Mansfield**, effective 1/30/2024
- Alexis Weaver**, effective 2/13/2024

D. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education employ the following certified individual, on a leave of absence contract for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year, pending completion of employment requirements, including, but not limited to a background check and proper certification/licensure. Proper placement on the negotiated salary schedule pending verification of all educational training and prior experience submitted to Amherst Schools:

- **Karen Kennedy**, PT SLP, Powers, effective 2/26/2024

E. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education grant a supplemental contract to the following individuals for the spring and/or year-round extracurricular activities during the 2023-2024 school year, pending completion of all employment requirements, including but not limited to Pupil Activity Permit, if required for positions, and a BCI and FBI background check with compensation at the board approved rate, as per **attachment 11A**.

F. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education approve payment of up to 6 hours each, for the following employees for attending spring **CPI Training**, as per **attachment 11B**.

G. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education grant the following individuals who have completed their probationary contract, a limited contract, or return to a continuing contract status as indicated:

- **Ashley Kleppe**, Bus Aide, balance of a one-year contract, effective 11/18/2023
- **Katherine Young**, PT Preschool Aide, the balance of a one-year contract, effective 2/23/2024
- **Mechelle Wilburn**, Bus Aide, balance of a one-year contract, effective 2/1/2024

H. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education approves an unpaid maternity leave for **Hannah Johnson**, AJH Guidance Counselor, effective on or about 3/18/2024 through 6/1/2024.

I. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education approve **Ashley Florek** to work as a **Comet Kids Aide** at **Powers Elementary**, effective 2/1/2024.

J. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education approve **Lindsey Dotson** to work an additional 5 hours at Nord, in order to complete a special project.

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K. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education approve the following as **SWC 7th grade basketball tournament workers:**

- **Linda Bray** - Scorekeeper/Scoreboard
- **Brad Draga** - Site Manager
- **Brian Kelley** - Scorekeeper/Scoreboard
- **Jessica Mello** - Scorekeeper/Scoreboard
- **Lisa Schenk** - Scorekeeper/Scoreboard
- **Claudia Schultz** - Ticket Sales/Gate
- **Michele Sturgeon** - Ticket Sales/Gate
- **Aiden Workman** - Scorekeeper/Scoreboard

L. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education approve the following as **OHSAA Basketball (Boys and Girls) Game Workers:**

- **Tom Anderson**
- **Cory Bendlak**
- **Linda Bray**
- **Brandon DiMacchia**
- **Jackie Doehr**
- **Al McConihe**
- **Lacey Reichert**
- **Claudia Schultz**
- **Bill Walker**
- **Dana Weatherspoon**
- **Dave Zvara**

Roll call vote:

Gilles, aye; Messer, aye; Wachholz, aye; Zappa, aye

2024-02-04

It was moved by Gilles and seconded by Wachholz that the following be amended and approved:

A. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education approve the agreement with **LearnWell** for student educational purposes as per **exhibit 12A**.

B. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education authorize membership in the **Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA)** for M.L. Steele High School and Amherst Jr. High School for the **2024-2025** school year as per **exhibit 12B**.

C. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education approve the agreement with **Ripcho Studio, Inc.** for the **2024-2025** school year, as per **exhibit 12C**.

D. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education accept the **2024-2025** school health services agreement with the **Lorain County Public Health**, as per **exhibit 12D**.

E. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education approve the following overnight field trips:

- **2024 8th Grade Washington D.C. Trip**, as per **exhibit 12E**.
- **Theatre State Conference**, Sylvania Northview High School, 3/22/2024 - 3/24/2024, as per **exhibit 12F**.
- **Emily Marty, History Class** winners of online competition, Hamilton Education Program, New York City, 5/7/2024 - 5/9/2024, as per **exhibit 12G**

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F. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education approve the **MLS Theatre Company, Troup 1422, production worker contracts for Choreographer, Orchestra/Pit Director, Vocal Director, and Professional Musician**, as per **exhibits 12H, 12I, 12J, and 12K**.

G. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education approve the agreement with the **Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities (LCBDD)**, as per **exhibit 12L**.

H. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education approves the agreement with **inFocus Photo Booths, LLC**, for the 2024 prom, as per **exhibit 12M**.

- Board discussion – Mr. Zappa inquired about the package pricing for the next school year for photographs. Mr. Molnar reached out to Ripcho for additional information and shared this information with the members.

Roll call vote:  
Gilles, aye; Wachholz, aye; Messer, aye; Zappa, aye

2024-02-05

It was moved by Gilles and seconded by Messer to approve the following:

A. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education approve the **Consulting and Agronomic Services Agreement** with Gary D’Andrea, Independent Consultant, effective 3/1/2024 to 11/30/2025, as per **exhibit 13A**.

B. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education approve the agreement with **DJ Zach B** to DJ at the M.L. Steele High School prom, on May 11, 2024, as per **exhibit 13B**.

C. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education approve the **after-bid bus purchase resolution** as per **exhibit 13C**.

Roll call vote:  
Gilles, aye; Messer, aye; Wachholz, aye; Zappa, aye

- Board discussion – Mr. Zappa requested further elaboration on the matter of item 13C of this motion. Mrs. Gioffredo responded to the question by explaining the purpose of the after-bid bus purchase resolution and the savings to the district because of this process. Board members inquired about the process for ensuring that there is room for growth with the new transportation facility. The board asked for clarification on the delivery of the buses and making buses ready to transport students.

2024-02-06

It was moved by Gilles and seconded by Messer to adjourn the meeting.

Roll call vote:  
Gilles, aye; Messer, aye; Wachholz, aye; Zappa, aye

Board President Marc Zappa adjourned the meeting at 6:52 p.m.

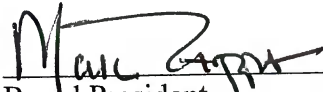
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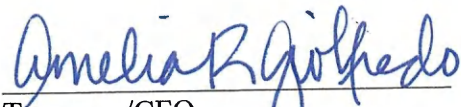
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