

MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman James Stirling, Mr. John Belfonti, Ms. Pat Cardozo, Mr. John Grabowski, and Mr. Joseph Nuzzo; Mr. Bill Blake (ex-officio).

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. Matt Giglietti

Staff members present: Dr. Charles Dumais, Ms. Theresa Lumas, Mr. Scott Cleary, Dr. Richard Dellinger, Mr. Shaun DeRosa, Mr. Ernie Goodwin, Ms. Kathi Fuller-Cutler, Ms. Anna Mahon, Dr. E. Marie McPadden, Ms. Mary Raiola, and Mr. Jim Saisa.

Also present: Board members: Mr. Christopher Browe, Ms. Sue Cohen, Mr. Steve DeMaio, Ms. Amy Esposito, Mr. Thomas Hurley, Ms. Sheila McCreven, Ms. Tracey Russo, Ms. Diane Urbano, and other members of the public.

A meeting of the Finance Committee of the Amity Regional Board of Education (BOE) was held on Monday, March 13, 2017 at 5:30 pm in the presentation room at the District Offices.

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Stirling called the meeting to order at 5:34 pm.
2. **Discussion and possible action on minutes.**
 - A. **Finance Committee Meeting - February 13, 2017**

Motion by Ms. Cardozo, 2nd by Mr. Nuzzo to table approval of the minutes.

Vote 4 in favor, unanimous

Motion carried

3. Public Comment

Mr. Jim Leahy, vice-chair of the Finance Board, Town of Orange, presented an update regarding the projected tax increases to the Town of Orange based on the proposed changes in funding from the State of Connecticut to municipalities and to Amity Regional Schools Region 5.

Mr. Christopher Browe, member, Board of Education (BOE), Orange. Mr. Browe requested that the Finance Committee, as they consider their budget recommendation, keep in mind that year-end surplus funds from the BOE budget that are returned to the towns do not get returned to individual taxpayer households but rather to the towns to use at their discretion.

4. Discussion and possible action on proposed 2017-2018 budget

Motion by Ms. Cardozo, 2nd by Mr. Belfonti to recommend to the Amity Board of Education the approval of the proposed budget for the fiscal year 2017-2018 in the gross amount of \$48,439,163 and the net amount of \$48,250,162.

Discussion followed, with each member of the Committee in turn stating their position on the motion.

Mr. Stirling invited any BOE members present to address the Committee regarding the motion.; Mr. Hurley, Ms. Russo, Ms. McCreven and Ms. Esposito spoke.

Mr. Stirling called for a vote on the motion.

Vote 3 in favor (Mr. Belfonti, Ms. Cardozo and Mr. Grabowski)

Vote 1 opposed (Mr. Nuzzo)

Motion carried

5. Auditing services proposals**A. Schedule presentations from bidders for April meeting**

Dr. Dumais stated that he could be prepared to present as many as 3 bids at the next Committee meeting. The agenda for that meeting is already quite full and he suggested that it might be necessary to move the meeting time back to 5:00 pm rather than the usual 5:30 pm start time.

6. Discussion of monthly financial statements

Ms. Lumas highlighted 3 items from the report – changes in special education, favorable medical claims for the month and the use of less natural gas.

7. Director of Finance and Administration –approved transfers under \$3,000**8. Other****A. District Public Budget Hearing – April 3, 2017****9. Adjourn**

Motion by Mr. Nuzzo, 2nd by Mr. Grabowski to adjourn at 5:18 pm.

Vote 4 in favor, unanimous

Motion carried

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth E. Natzel, Recording Clerk