

MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman James Stirling, Mr. John Belfonti, Ms. Pat Cardozo, Mr. Matt Giglietti, Mr. John Grabowski and Mr. Joseph Nuzzo.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

Staff members present: Dr. Charles Dumais, Mr. Jack Levine, Mr. Jim Saisa, Dr. Marie McPadden and Ms. Terry Lumas.

Also present: Mrs. Ruth Natzel, Mr. Bill Blake, Ms. Diane Urbano, Ms. Amy Esposito, Ms. Sue Cohen and Mr. Tom Hurley.

A meeting of the Finance Committee of the Amity Regional Board of Education (BOE) was held on Monday, March 28, 2016 at 5:30 pm in the presentation room at the Amity District Offices.

1. Call to Order: Mr. Stirling called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

2. Public Comment

Mr. Hurley commented that this budget reduction, in his opinion, does not really fix anything long-term, it only changes where money is spent. It does, however, give the Board and staff time to look at other possibilities for longer term remedies.

3. Discussion and possible action on proposed budget 2016-2017 (enclosure)

Dr. Dumais explained the reductions that have been made to bring the budget increase total to 1.99% (down from 2.56% over the budget for the current fiscal year) per his memo of March 23, 2016. Dr. Dumais cautioned the members of the Committee that the risk with this decrease is that any one new expense will cause the figures to change.

Motion by Mr. Nuzzo, 2nd by Mr. Belfonti to recommend the Superintendent's proposed 2016-2017 budget to the full Board as presented.

There were questions and discussion from the Committee members about various budget line items and the items that were cut out of the budget which were answered by Mr. Levine and Dr. Dumais. Mr. Levine stated that the current plan is to complete the items that have been eliminated (listed on pages 2 – 5 of the memo) as anticipated surplus funds become available this fiscal year.

Vote unanimous

Motion carried

Mr. Stirling stated that with this reduction he would expect that the Finance Committees from each of the 3 member towns would make a public statement in support of this budget as presented.

4. Discussion of monthly financial statements (enclosure).

The Chairman asked that the Committee consider item 6A first for purposes of expediency.

6. Discussion and possible action on new funding requests (enclosure).

A. Facilities contingency

Motion by Nuzzo, 2nd by Mr. Grabowski to make a budget transfer in the amount of \$140,913 from account #05-15-0000-5850 contingency account, to account #05-15-0000-5856 transfer account into the reserve fund for capital and nonrecurring expenditures to pay for the awarded contracts related to the District lighting project.

Ms. Cardozo objected to moving the item up in the agenda.

Mr. Nuzzo and Mr. Grabowski agreed to rescind their motion.

5. Discussion and possible action on budget transfers of \$3,000 or more (enclosure).

Motion by Mr. Giglietti, 2nd by Ms. Cardozo to make the budget transfer into the transfer account for the purpose of moving a total of \$225,000 into the reserve fund for capital and nonrecurring expenditures:

<i>Account number 05-15-000-5850</i>	<i>Contingency account</i>	<i>\$ 3,287</i>
<i>Account number 05-14-2600-5715</i>	<i>Improvements to buildings</i>	<i>\$79,728</i>
<i>Account number 03-14-2600-5720</i>	<i>Improvements to sites</i>	<i>\$62,385</i>
<i>Account number 05-15-1026-5111</i>	<i>Certified salaries</i>	<i>\$79,600</i>

There was discussion regarding whether or not this transfer should be made because the budget has been reduced and now new spending is authorized; however, the administration will look for cost-savings to cover these necessary project. Dr. Dumais spoke in favor of making this transfer because the projects have been put off, in some cases several times, and if they are put off further they will become more expensive, cause safety issues, etc. (see pages 43-46). Mr. Blake spoke in favor of recommending the transfers and stated that the Board is bound by State statute to create the budget and not to delegate the decisions on what projects to be done to the member town Finance Committees.

**Vote 3 in favor (Ms. Cardozo, Mr. Giglietti and Mr. Grabowski)
3 against (Mr. Nuzzo, Mr. Stirling and Mr. Belfonti)**

Motion failed

***Motion by Mr. Belfonti to move funds for the first 3 items in the list (see page 45) totaling \$120,000.
Motion rescinded***

Motion by Mr. Belfonti, 2nd by Mr. Grabowski to transfer funds for first 3 items and last item on the list (see page 45) totaling \$135,000.

There was further lengthy and heated discussion regarding this motion to transfer only \$135,000 rather than the recommended \$225,000.

Ms. Cardozo stated that this transfer in the amount of \$225,000 should be made to complete the projects that will protect the safety of the staff, students and the public and provide proper upkeep for the facility.

Dr. Dumais stated that not funding these items would be short-sighted.

Vote 4 in favor, 2 against (Ms. Cardozo and Mr. Giglietti)

Motion carried

6. Discussion and possible action on new funding requests (enclosure).

A. Facilities contingency – this item was moot since the full funds totaling \$225,000 were not transferred.

B. Contingency account

Motion by Mr. Nuzzo, 2nd by Mr. Giglietti to make a budget transfer in the amount of \$140,913 from account #05-15-0000-5850 contingency account, to account #05-15-0000-5856 transfer account into the reserve fund for capital and nonrecurring expenditures to pay for the awarded contracts related to the District lighting project.

Vote unanimous

Motion carried

Ms. Cardozo commented that this motion for the lighting project was just passed by unanimous vote, but that it has no impact on the health, safety and welfare of our students and staff; in contrast, the better part of a half-hour was spent

debating the merits of 7 facilities improvements that directly affect the health, safety and welfare of staff and students and only 3 of 7 were approved.

7. Adjourn

Motion by Mr. Nuzzo, 2nd by Mr. Giglietti to adjourn at 6:25 pm.

Vote unanimous

Motion carried

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth E. Natzel, Recording Clerk