

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Tom Hurley, Ms. Robyn Berke, Mr. Christopher Browe, Ms. Shannan Carlson, Ms. Patricia Cardozo, Ms. Paula Cofrancesco, Ms. Sue Cohen (departed 9:30 pm), Ms. Sheila McCreven, Ms. Jennifer Turner, and Ms. Diane Urbano.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. John Belfonti, Mr. Steven DeMaio, and Ms. Amy Esposito.

Staff members present: Dr. Charles Dumais, Ms. Theresa Lumas, Mr. Scott Cleary, Ms. Kathy Burke, Dr. Richard Dellinger, Mr. Peter Downhour, Ms. Anna Mahon, Dr. E. Marie McPadden, and Ms. Mary Raiola.

Also present: Other members of the public.

A regular meeting of the Amity Regional Board of Education (BOE) was held on Monday, August 21, 2017, at 6:30 pm in the Presentation Room at the District Offices.

1. Call to Order: Acting Chairman Tom Hurley called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

3. Public Comment

Mr. Jim Zeoli, First Selectman, Town of Orange, presented a letter to the Board (**attachment**). He requested on behalf of Orange that the Board vote in favor of returning surplus funds to the member towns.

Mr. Peter Downhour, Amity High School teacher, expressed his appreciation to Bill Blake, former chairman of the BOE, for his service to the staff and students of Amity schools.

Mr. Jamie Stirling, Bethany, CT, former member of the Amity Finance Committee, expressed his thanks to Bill Blake for his unwavering commitment to public education in his service on the BOE. Mr. Stirling stated that it was his great fortune to have served with Mr. Blake and that the three member towns owe him a debt of gratitude.

4. Swearing in of new Board of Education members: Shannan Carlson, Paula Cofrancesco, and Jennifer Turner

Mr. Hurley administered the oath of office to the three new BOE members and welcomed them to the Board.

5. Board of Education member recognition

The Board recognized Bill Blake for his years of service on the BOE, including his years as chairman. Mr. Blake shared that he is thankful that he was able to serve and encouraged the current Board members in their service to the Amity Community, stating that it is a privilege to be involved in something greater than oneself.

The Board took a recess for coffee and cake and to greet Mr. Blake. The Board was called back to order at 7:10 pm

6. Discussion and possible action on suspension of Amity Board of Education bylaw 9120 until the next regularly scheduled meeting in September to permit a greater portion of the Board to participate in the vote for open office positions (enclosure)

Motion by Ms. McCreven, 2nd by Ms. Cardozo to suspend Amity BOE bylaw 9120 until the next regularly scheduled meeting in September to permit a greater portion of the Board to participate in the vote for open office positions.

Discussion followed

Motion by Ms. Cohen to call the question.

Vote in favor 8, opposed 1 (Ms. Urbano)

Motion carried

Mr. Hurley then called for a vote on the motion to suspend bylaw 9120.

Vote 3 in favor (Ms. Cofrancesco, Ms. McCreven, Ms. Turner)

5 opposed (Ms. Berke, Mr. Browe, Ms. Carlson, Ms. Cohen, Ms. Urbano)

1 abstention (Ms. Cardozo)

Motion failed

7. Possible election of Board Chairman and any offices vacated by the election of Board Chairman

Mr. Hurley relinquished the Chair to Dr. Dumais.

Dr. Dumais called for nominations for Chairman from the floor.

Mr. Browe nominated Tom Hurley for Chairman, 2nd by Ms. Berke.

Hearing no other nominations from the floor, Dr. Dumais closed nominations.

The secretary was instructed to cast one ballot for Mr. Tom Hurley as Chairman.

Mr. Hurley then took the Chair to continue the elections and called for nominations for Vice-Chair.

Mr. Browe nominated Ms. Pat Cardozo for Vice-Chair, 2nd by Ms. Urbano.

Vote in favor 8; 1 abstention (Ms. Cardozo)

Motion carried

Ms. Cardozo elected as Board Vice-Chair.

Mr. Hurley called for nominations for Assistant Treasurer.

Motion by Ms. McCreven to nominate Ms. Paula Cofrancesco for Assistant Treasurer, 2nd by Ms. Cohen.

Motion by Mr. Browe to nominate Ms. Urbano for Assistant Treasurer, 2nd by Ms. Berke.

Each candidate spoke to the Board, and a short discussion followed.

Votes for Ms. Cofrancesco, 7; for Ms. Urbano, 2 (Ms. Turner, Ms. Cohen)

Motion carried

Ms. Cofrancesco elected as Assistant Treasurer.

8. Approval of minutes.

A. Regular BOE meeting, June 12, 2017 (enclosure)

Motion by Ms. Cohen, 2nd by Mr. Browe to accept the minutes of June 12, 2017 as submitted

Correction of spelling of Karen Tierny's last name to Terni.

There was a question regarding the votes after executive session and whether or not the names of the persons voting needed to be listed. After discussion, this decision and any change to be made was left to the discretion of the Board Secretary.

Vote to accept the minutes as amended, in favor, 9-0

Motion carried

Minutes were corrected and re-submitted for posting.

B. Special BOE meeting, July 18, 2017 (enclosure)

Motion by Ms. Cohen, 2nd by Ms. Cofrancesco to accept the minutes of July 18, 2017 as submitted

Vote in favor, 9-0

Motion carried

5. Student Report

Ms. Ananya Kachru gave an update on events at Amity High School, Amity Middle School Bethany Campus, and Amity Middle School Orange Campus since June and also informed the Board of upcoming events for the start of the school year.

10. Presentation of research proposal “Creative Art Participation from Middle- to High-School age: Impact on Identity Formation and Academic Achievement” – Dr. Baptiste Barbot

Dr. Dumais introduced Dr. Barbot. Dr. Barbot presented the details of his proposed study and answered questions.

Mr. Hurley thanked Dr. Barbot for his presentation and called for a motion to participate in the study.

Motion by Mr. Browe, 2nd by Ms. Turner, that Amity Schools participate in the creative arts study as proposed by Dr. Barbot.

Vote in favor, 9-0

Motion carried

Dr. Dumais will prepare a letter to be sent to Dr. Barbot indicating that the Board agreed to participate in the study.

11. Discussion and possible action on Perkins Supplemental Enhancement Grant (enclosure)

Dr. Dumais spoke about the grant as detailed in the packet. Discussion and questions followed.

Motion by Ms. McCreven, 2nd by Ms. Berke, to support submission of the supplemental enhancement grant.

Vote in favor, 9-0

Motion carried

12. Correspondence

Two letters are included in the packet; one from the Director of Finance in Orange and one from the Chairman of the Board of Finance in Woodbridge.

13. Superintendent’s Report

A. Personnel Report – (enclosure)

Dr. Dumais stated that the enclosed personnel report is complete with the exception of a few coaching vacancies and paraprofessional vacancies.

B. Other

14. Chairman’s Report -

A. Committee Reports

I. ACES

Ms. Cohen stated that there were no meetings over the summer and that some programs and staff were able to be restored despite the State budget cuts. There will be a meeting in September.

II. CABE

Ms. McCreven stated that CABE sent a letter to all Board members regarding the State budget cuts. An email was also recently sent as a call to action for participation at a meeting on Tuesday, August 15th, at 10:30 am at Maloney High School in Meriden.

III. Curriculum

Mr. Browe stated that the Curriculum Committee has not met; a meeting is scheduled for September 6th.

IV. Facilities**1. Facilities Department monthly report, June/July 2017 (enclosure)**

Ms. Cardozo stated that the Facilities Committee has not met. She thanked Mr. Saisa and his team for all the work that has been completed over the summer.

V. Finance**1. Presentation and discussion of 2018-2019 budget calendar (enclosure)**

Dr. Dumais highlighted the calendar and timeline for the preparation of the 2018-2019 budget, enclosed.

Lengthy discussion followed regarding the need for a separate meeting between the BOE and Department Heads versus the meetings that are already listed on the calendar. There was also discussion regarding the Special Meeting that has been scheduled between the BOE and all the member town Finance Boards for September 5th to discuss the Board bylaw 9132.6, which created the Amity Finance Committee and possible conflict of this bylaw with State Statute.

Motion by Ms. McCreven to send this back to the Policy Committee. Motion was not seconded.

Motion by Ms. Cohen, 2nd by Ms. McCreven, for a joint meeting of the Policy Committee of the BOE and Finance Committee to propose possible remedies for the bylaw.

There was further discussion

Ms. Cohen amended her motion, 2nd by Ms. McCreven, that the BOE and Boards of Finance meet on September 5th and that a Special BOE meeting be scheduled for September 25th.

There was further discussion regarding the proposed meetings and what the follow-through will be.

Mr. Hurley proposed adding a "refresher" discussion on Policy 9132.6 to the Policy meeting agenda on August 21, 2017 at 5:30 pm.

Ms. Cohen further amended her motion for a Special BOE meeting to be held on September 5th, 2017 to discuss and act as necessary on bylaw 9132.6.

Vote in favor 8, opposed 1 (Ms. Urbano)

Motion carried

There was further discussion regarding the agenda for the Policy Committee meeting on August 21st. Policy 9132.6 will not be added to the agenda, but a packet of information will be put together for all BOE members regarding this policy. It is noted that the current policy is on the district website.

2. Presentation of Annual Report on reserve fund for capital and non-recurring expenditures (enclosure)

Ms. Lumas highlighted items in her enclosed report.

3. Discussion and possible action on recommended uses of 2016-2017 year-end available funds (enclosure)

Ms. Cardozo thanked all who attended the last Finance Committee meeting and provided their input. The Finance Committee voted, after much consideration, to recommend sending all surplus funds back to the member towns. It is noted that all three member towns felt strongly that 100% of the funds should be returned.

Motion by Mr. Browe, 2nd by Ms. Cohen to return to the member towns, the audited fund balance of \$478,356 set aside for District Meeting for vote on supplemental appropriations.

Dr. Dumais and Ms. Lumas noted that a change needed to be made in the motion.

Mr. Browe amended his motion, 2nd by Ms. Cohen, to return to the member towns the audited fund balance.

Discussion followed.

Vote in favor, 6 (Mr. Browe, Ms. Cardozo, Ms. Carlson, Ms. Cofrancesco, Ms. Cohen, Ms. McCreven)

Opposed, 1 (Ms. Urbano)

Abstentions, 2 (Ms. Berke, Ms. Turner)

Motion carried

Discussion and possible action on contracts of \$35,000 or more

4. Discussion of monthly financial statements
 - a. Fiscal year 2016-2017 (enclosure)
 - b. Fiscal year 2017-2018 (enclosure)
5. Director of Finance and Administration approved transfers under \$3,000
 - a. Fiscal Year 2016-2017 (enclosure)

VI. Policy

1. Draft policy meeting June 19, 2017 minutes (enclosure)
2. First reading of the following:
 - a. 1100 – Communications with the Public, Communication (enclosure)
 - b. 1111 – Use of educational television channel
 - c. 1112.1 – Coverage of Board of Education meetings (enclosure)
 - d. 1112.3 – School news releases, access to information (enclosure)

Mr. Hurley went over the changes/updates to the policies which are included in the packet.

VII. Personnel

The Personnel Committee will meet in September.

VIII. District Technology

IX. District Health and Safety

Mr. Hurley stated that these two items are new to the regular agenda. Mr. DeMaio has been assigned to this District Committee and will report back to the Board with any information or concerns.

15. Items for next agenda – please forward any items to Dr. Dumais or Mr. Hurley. Ms. McCreven requested that consideration of the use of CAFE online services for BOE agenda and packets be added to the agenda for September.

16. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Browe, 2nd by Ms. Berke to adjourn at 9:51 pm.

Vote in favor, 8-0

Motion carried

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth E. Natzel, Recording Clerk

Sheila McCreven, Secretary