

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT Chairman William Blake, Mr. John Belfonti, Mr. Christopher Browe, Ms. Patricia Cardozo, Ms. Sue Cohen, Mr. Steven DeMaio, Ms. Amy Esposito, Mr. Thomas Hurley, and Ms. Diane Urbano.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. James Stirling, Ms. Tracy Lane Russo, Ms. Sheila McCreven.

Staff members present: Dr. Charles Dumais, Ms. Terry Lumas, Mr. Kevin Keller, Mr. Jason Woods, Dr. Marie McPadden, Ms. Anna Mahon, Ms. Mary Raiola, Dr. Charles Dellinger, Ms. Kathleen Fuller-Cutler, Ms. Vicky Fielosh, and Mr. Ernie Goodwin.

Also present: Mrs. Ruth Natzel, Mr. R. J. Kaoud, and other members of the public.

A regular meeting of the Amity Regional Board of Education (BOE) was held on Monday, January 11, 2016 at 6:30 pm in the presentation room at the Amity District Offices.

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman William Blake called the meeting to order at 6:50 pm.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance** was recited by those present.

Dr. Dumais mentioned that the children of 2 Board members, Ms. Cardozo and Ms. McCreven had recently been recognized by The New Haven Register for their excellence on the Amity volleyball team.

3. **Approval of minutes.**

A. **Regular BOE meeting, December 14, 2015 (enclosure)**

Motion by Mr. Hurley, 2nd by Mr. Belfonti to accept the minutes as submitted.

Corrections on page 5 by Ms. Cohen; correction by Ms. Cardozo to the spelling of Anna Mahon’s last name.

The Chairman called the question to accept the minutes as amended.

Vote unanimous

Motion carried

4. **Public Comment** - None

5. **Student Report**

Mr. R. J. Kaoud gave an update on events at Amity High School over the past month as well as informing the Board about upcoming events. He reported on activities of each of the 4 grades as well as clubs, athletics, theater, student government and community service. He stated that the Principal’s Committee is looking at other ways to make school improvements similar to the refurbishing of the senior lounge. A survey of teachers and students regarding the various software and websites being used for instruction is taking place. The survey results will be used to help the administration and the technology department make decisions regarding what tools are best to use for the students and teachers. There will be an 8th Grade Parents Night on January 26th sponsored by the administration.

Motion by Mr. Hurley, 2nd by Ms. Cohen to move to item 11A 5A on the agenda.

Vote unanimous

Motion carried

11. **Chairman’s report**

5. Finance (attachment)

Three representatives from Mahoney Sabol (Ms. Jennifer Hawkins, Ms. Amanda Backhaus and Ms. Samantha Thomas) presented the highlights of the audit report. This is the 6th year in a row that Amity has had a clean audit with no issues. There were questions from the Board regarding OPEB funding and recommended debt service/bond funding; all questions were answered by the audit team.

A. Discussion and possible action on audited financial statements.

1. Review of audited financial statements by auditors
2. Discussion and possible action to accept annual financial statements

Motion by Mr. Hurley, 2nd by Ms. Cohen to accept the Annual Financial Statements for the period ending June 30,2015.

Vote unanimous

Motion carried

3. Discussion and possible action to return funds to member towns.

Motion by Mr. Browe, 2nd by Ms. Cohen to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to return to the Member Towns a balance of \$1,062,139, as follows: Town of Bethany \$221,148; Town of Orange \$522,754; Town of Woodbridge \$318,237.

Vote unanimous

Motion carried

Mr. Blake thanked Dr. Dumais, Mr. Levine, Ms. Lumas and their staff for their excellent work regarding the budget.

6. Acceptance of donation to Amity Regional High School Drama Program.

Motion Ms. Cohen, 2nd by DeMaio to accept the very generous donation of \$15,000 from the Flaumenhaft Family for the Amity Drama Department to help with the cost of theatre production and supplies.

Ms. Esposito asked if there were any time constraints on the use of these funds and Dr. Dumais said that there were not.

Vote unanimous

Motion carried

7. Presentation and discussion of Superintendent's proposed 2016-2017 budget (attachment)

Dr. Dumais thanked the district leadership team for their work in developing the budget along with Mr. Levine and Ms. Lumas and their staff, as well as commending the financial team for their 6th consecutive clean audit.

Dr. Dumais highlighted certain items in the budget that are fluid items because they are contingent on decisions made by the member towns, by the State legislature, etc. He also pointed out the following pages: 20 (budget drivers); 29 (choice versus risk); pages 34 and 67 (bonding); page 73 (items used to establish the budget forecast for which feedback from towns would be encouraged and appreciated).

Dr. Dumais stated that 95% of the budget increase is salaries, benefits and special education.

Mr. DeMaio inquired about the possibility of taking special education students on a tuition basis; Ms. Raiola and Dr. Dumais will investigate this possibility.

Ms. Esposito questioned the bonding items, specifically that the turf field project was included with all the others; Dr. Dumais stated that this could be separated out.

Mr. Hurley asked whether the 5-year technology plan would be bonded; answer is that this cannot be bonded.

Mr. Browe commented on the Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) policy versus implementing one system and to look at the possibility of having Chromebooks for each student. Shawn DeRosa (technology director) is currently at a conference investigating this very subject. There is also a survey taking place among students and teachers regarding software program and device use as mentioned by Mr. Kaoud in his Student Report.

8. Update on federally-mandated café price increases (enclosure)**A. Discussion and possible action on audited financial statements**

1. Review of audited financial statements by auditors
2. Discussion and possible action to accept annual financial statements
3. Discussion and possible action to return funds to member towns

Ms. Lumas updated the Board regarding the adjustment of à la carte and adult meal prices to be in line with USDA mandates; the price for student meals has not changed.

9. Correspondence - none**10. Superintendent's Report****A. Personnel Report – (enclosure)**

B. Other

Dr. Dumais highlighted items on his report.

The Education Commissioner sent a letter to all Superintendents regarding the consequences for schools that do not have a high enough participation in standardized tests.

Two student trips are scheduled; one to China in April as part of an exchange with Chinese students coming to Amity at a future date, and a trip to Quebec in February for students taking French.

Dr. Dumais has contacted CAFE for help with educating new Board members and he has met with ACES regarding student credit recovery.

11. Chairman's Report -**A. Committee Reports**

1. **ACES** - none
2. **CABE** - There is an upcoming legislative breakfast on February 2nd at Derby High School.
3. **Curriculum** – The Curriculum Committee will be meeting on January 27th.
4. **Facilities** – The Facilities Committee has not met.
 - A. **Facilities Department monthly report, December 2015 (enclosure)**
5. **Finance**
 - B. **Discussion of Monthly Financial Statements**
 - C. **Director of Finance and Administration approved transfers under \$3,000**
 - D. **Discussion and possible action on budget transfers of \$3,000 or more**

Motion by Ms. Cohen 2nd by Mr. Hurley to transfer \$7,000 for the Amity Regional High School Science Department 5611 – Instructional Supplies Account to the District Technology Department 5690 – Other Supplies account for the purpose of purchasing Chrome books. **Vote unanimous**

Motion by Ms. Cohen, 2nd by Mr. Hurley to make the following budget transfer to purchase Stage Tek Decks for Amity Middle School – Orange Campus: From 05-15-0000-5850 Contingency account to 02-11-1010-5730 Equipment, new. **Motion carried**

Mr. Levine pointed out an item on page 118, \$350,000, which could possibly be used to purchase one of the bond items; no vote would be necessary. He also commended Ms. Lumas and her staff to the Board as the ones who have done the “real” work on the budget.

E. Discussion and possible action on new funding requests**6. Policy**

- A. **Second reading and discussion and possible action on the following:**
 1. **Policy 5141 – Student Health Services**
 2. **Policy 5141.21 - Administering medications**
 3. **Policy 5141.22 – Communicable disease**
 4. **Policy 5141.231 – Psychotropic drugs**
 5. **Policy 5141.25 - Special healthcare needs**
 6. **Policy 5141.3 – Immunizations**

Motion by Mr. Hurley, 2nd by Ms. Cohen to approve all 6 policies.

Mr. Hurley noted that these policies are all mandated.

Vote unanimous

Motion carried

7. Personnel

One contract has moved to arbitration and the nurses’ contract has been ratified by the nurses; either a meeting or executive session will be scheduled for a mid-year performance conversation with Dr. Dumais.

Mr. Browe asked if there are social workers on staff; Dr. Dumais answered that Amity does have personnel who serve in the role of social workers and that he would get back to the Board with the exact number.

12. Items for next agenda – please forward any items to Dr. Dumais or Mr. Blake.

13. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Hurley, 2nd by Ms. Cohen to adjourn at 9:10 pm.

Vote unanimous

Motion carried

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth E. Natzel, Recording Clerk

Thomas Hurley, Secretary