

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. William Blake, Mr. Christopher Browe, Mr. Patricia Cardozo, Ms. Sue Cohen, Ms. Diane Crocco, Ms. Rita Gedansky, Mr. John Grasso, Jr., Mr. James Horwitz, Mr. Thomas Hurley, Ms. Sheila McCreven and Ms. Tracey Lane Russo and Mr. James Stirling.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. Steven DeMaio.

Staff members present: Mr. Charles Dumais, Mr. Jack Levine, Dr. Marie McPadden, Ms. Terry Lumas, Mr. Seth Davis, Mr. Jason Woods and Mr. Sean DeRosa.

Also present: Ruth Natzel, and other members of the public.

A regular meeting of the Amity Regional Board of Education (BOE) was held on Monday, November 10, 2014 at 6:30 pm in the cafeteria at Amity Regional High School.

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman William Blake called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance** was recited by those present.
3. **Recognition of Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS) Award recipients**
The principals along with Mr. Blake and Mr. Dumais presented CAPSS Award certificates to the students listed below.
Dr. Richard Dellinger, principal at Amity Middle School – Bethany, presented the CAPSS Award to Matthew Anastasio and Julie Fleischman.
Kathy Fuller-Cutler, principal at Amity Middle School-Orange, presented the CAPSS Award to students Joseph Moncheski and Julia Potter.
Ms. Monica Kreuzer, assistant principal at Amity High School (filling in for Dr. Britton) presented the CAPSS Award to Hannah Babbitz, Morgan Blume, Lauren Duhl, Joseph Racaniello, Tyler Ronne and Matthew Whitehill.
4. **Recognition of National Merit Scholar Program (NMSP) semifinalists and commended students**
The principals, along with Mr. Blake and Mr. Dumais presented NMSP certificates to the students listed below
Ms. Kreuzer introduced the National Merit Scholar Program semifinalists - Eli Baum, Daniel Giebisch, Sricharan Kadimi and Owais Khan.
Ms. Kreuzer introduced the National Merit Scholar commended students – Myles Caldwell, Samuel Caldwell, Benjamin Ewing, Noah Gallant, Arvene Golgazi, Lisa Gorham, Yingxue Han, Arpita Jajoo, Simone Kanter, Olivia Levine, Guillermol Lopez-Vila, Matthew Sacco, Sarah Stein, Mackenzie Stratton and Renoj Varghese.

Chairman Blake commended the students for their achievements and thanked the family and friends in attendance for coming. Mr. Blake stated the Board would take a short break at 7:55 pm. The Board reconvened at 7:05 pm

5. **Approval of minutes.**
 - A. Regular BOE meeting, October 20, 2014
A motion was made by Mr. Hurley, seconded by Ms. McCreven, to accept the minutes as submitted.

Mr. Hurley commented that there might be an error on page 6, in the kilowatt hour rate, perhaps an extra zero. Mr. Dumais will check for accuracy and the minutes will be corrected and resubmitted.

ADDENDUM – the minutes were corrected to read “Mr. Dumais has negotiated a rate of **\$0.09770** kilowatt hour as authorized by the Board in May 2014...” The minutes were resubmitted for posting on November 11, 2014.

Vote unanimous (abstention by Ms. Russo and Mr. Horwitz)

Motion carried

6. **Reports on Adult and Continuing Education** – Mr. Seth Davis presented a report regarding the Adult and Continuing Education Program (attachment). He spoke about the summer school program and the various courses and enrichment activities that occurred. He is hoping to shorten the time frame for some courses next summer to make them more appealing to students, along with making the offerings even more specifically applicable to what is offered at Amity during the regular school term. Mr. Davis answered several questions regarding the courses offered and whether or not they were for credit, for make-up classes, class size, enrollment numbers and the band and drama programs.
7. **Public comment** – none
8. **Student Report** – Student report was given by George Grotheer. He updated the Board on the recent activities at Amity High School including student government, social activities, drama and music performances and athletics. Amity High School also had a special presentation from military veteran's in honor of Veteran's Day.
9. **Correspondence** - None
10. **Superintendent's report**
- A. **Personnel Report** – Mr. Dumais reported that the one coaching vacancy have been filled along with two paraprofessional staff positions (see attached).
- B. **Other** – Mr. Dumais reported that much progress has been made toward the Board goals. For example: Ms. Kreuzer is taking the lead and is working with others on developing individualized student success plans. Ms. Kreuzer attended a meeting of the League of Innovative Schools, other schools in New England who are looking to focus on personalized learning plans. A hard-copy letter will be going out to all families notifying them of testing to take place for Amity's software Alert Solutions (multi-channel notification via email, texts and phone calls), to be sure that all families are registered and connected via information in PowerSchool. The shortened days for professional development have been a tremendous success. Dr. McPadden is working on curriculum coordination with the sending districts. The district has had a clean audit for the 5th year in a row. Report on cost savings and efficiencies presented monthly and input from staff is being sought. The Policy Committee has met and will be working diligently to get policies revised and current. Investigated the use of universal assessment via the NWEA who has been in the district already, as well as possible expansion of Study Island for other uses. The district may be able to secure the services of a college intern who is a communications major to help at Amity one day a week with regard to communication to families. This coming Wednesday night, November 12, 2014, Mr. Dumais will be attending the Woodbridge Board of Selectman meeting.
11. **Chairman's Report**
- A. **Committee Reports**
1. **ACES** – none.
 2. **CABE** – There is a meeting this Friday and Saturday, November 14 and 15, 2014. There is still time for Board members to sign up, if they wish to attend.
 3. **Curriculum** – Committee met on October 23, 2014. There were several presentations regarding new curriculum and textbooks needs for various subjects. The Social Studies Department, in particular, needs updated textbooks (some as old as 1998). One textbook purchase for the Social Studies Department will be a \$90,000 item in the new budget. There is a difficulty in purchasing e-books at any cost savings because the publishers still tie them to print copies.
 4. **Facilities** – Did not meet.

5. Finance

- a. **Discussion and possible action on composite investment policy statements for Pension, Sick and Severance and OPEB Trust** - Mr. Levine explained the request he made of Mike Goss to look at the policies for these items. Mr. Goss presented his findings to the Finance Committee earlier this evening. The Finance Committee will look at the draft and act on it at their next meeting as there is no urgency on this issue.
- b. **Presentation and discussion of Board goal of cost savings and efficiencies** – Mr. Dumais presented the goals and plans for cost savings and efficiencies (attached). A District-wide committee will be formed chaired by Mr. Levine to discuss and develop strategies for cost savings and efficiencies and report these findings to the Superintendent. Ms. Cardozo suggested that students be involved on this committee and Mr. Dumais will consider students in the development of membership on the committee.
- c. **Discussion of monthly financial statements** – no discussion.
- d. **Director of Finance and Administration Approved Transfers Under \$3,000** - no discussion.

Mr. Blake thanked and commended Mr. Levine and Ms. Lumas regarding the clean audit for Amity for now the 5th year in a row.

6. **Policy** – Co-chairs Ms. Cohen and Mr. Hurley reported that the Policy Committee met on October 30, 2015. The meeting time was spent on identifying what needs to be done, organizing and prioritizing the work, and scheduling future meetings.

7. Personnel

A motion was made by Ms. Cardozo, seconded by Mr. Horwitz, that the Board move to Executive Session, item #12 and that Mr. Dumais be invited to the Executive Session at 7:30 pm.

Vote unanimous

Motion carried

12. Executive Session - Personnel

The Board came out of Executive Session at 7:55 pm. Mr. Blake explained the purpose of Executive Session to the Amity High School students present; they were observing the Board meeting for one of their classes.

13. **Discussion and possible action on appointment of Director of Counseling** – Mr. Dumais recommend hiring of Jill LaPlante be hired as Director of Counseling.

Motion by Ms. Cohen, seconded by Mr. Hurley that Jill LaPlante be appointed as Director of Counseling at Amity Regional High School at the salary stated by Mr. Dumais in his memo or November 10, 2014.

Mr. Blake stated that the Board is pleased that there will be a person in this position that is from Amity and is highly qualified.

Vote unanimous

Motion carried

- 14. Discussion and possible action on appointment of Assistant Director of Finance and Administration** – Mr. Dumais explained that in order to meet Board goals for those who work in the District and in order to create better structure in the District Finance Department, he is recommending that the position of Finance Manager be modified to Assistant Director of Finance.

Motion made by Ms. Cohen, seconded by Ms. Gedansky current position of Finance Manager be changed to Assistant Director of Finance and Administration, and include the addition of responsibility for supervision of the Technology Department, Transportation Services, Bidding, and Food Service Operations. The annual salary for the modified position would be as recommended by Mr. Dumais in his memo of November 10, 2014..

Mr. Blake commended the work that Ms. Lumas has already been doing for the District.

Vote unanimous

Motion carried

- 15. Discussion and possible action on appointment of Student Management Database Specialist** – Mr. Dumais stated that the District currently has a technician/PowerSchool Specialist but the current salary is not comparable to other districts. Mr. Dumais recommended that a \$5,000 stipend be added to the salary as a step in the right direction to bring this salary more in range.

A motion was made by Ms. Cohen, seconded by Mr. Hurley that the current position of Technician, which includes responsibility for the implementation and operation of PowerSchool, be changed immediately to Student Management Database Specialist and include an additional \$5000.00 stipend.

Vote unanimous

Motion carried

- 16. Items for next agenda** – Please forward any items for the next agenda to Mr. Dumais or Mr. Blake.

Mr. Blake wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

- 17. Adjournment**

Motion was made by Ms. Cardozo, second Mr. Horwitz to adjourn at 8:00 p.m.

Vote unanimous

Motion carried

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth E. Natzel, Recording Clerk

Thomas Hurley, Secretary