

MINUTES

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman William Blake, Mr. John Belfonti, Mr. Christopher Browe, Ms. Patricia Cardozo, Ms. Sue Cohen, Ms. Diane Crocco, Mr. Steven Demaio, Ms. Rita Gedansky, Mr. James Horwitz, Mr. Thomas Hurley, Ms. Sheila McCreven and Mr. James Stirling.

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Ms. Tracey Lane Russo

**Staff members present:** Dr. Charles Dumais, Ms. Terry Lumas, Mr. Ernie Goodwin, Mr. Shawn DeRosa, Dr. Marie McPadden, Ms. Mary Raiola, Ms. Jill LaPlante, Ms. Anna Mahon, Mr. James Saisa, and other staff members.

**Also present:** Mrs. Ruth Natzel, Mr. George Grotheer; Mr. Joel Kopylec, Tony Sherman and Mr. Erik Robie (all from United Illuminating (UI)); other members of the public.

A regular meeting of the Amity Regional Board of Education (BOE) was held on Monday, June 08, 2015 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 6:38 pm
2. **Pledge of Allegiance** was recited by those present.

***Motion by Mr. Hurley, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Crocco, to amend the agenda and move item #4 after item # 9 second and to go into Executive Session and include Dr. Dumais.***

**Vote 10 in favor, 1 opposed (Ms. McCreven)**

**Motion carried**

**3. Recognition of Award of Excellence recipients.**

Dr. Dumais recognized and introduced two staff members from Amity High School who are the recipients of the Amity High School Award of Excellence: Mr. Scott Demaio, certified staff award of excellence for Amity Regional School and Mr. Bob Carbone, classified staff award of excellence for Amity Regional School

Mr. Blake congratulated Mr. Demaio and Mr. Carbone on their award and thanked them for their hard work on behalf of the Board.

***Motion by Mr. Browe, second by Mr. Hurley, to amend the agenda and move items #5 and #6 after item #4.***

**Vote unanimous**

**Motion carried**

**7. Approval of minutes.**

- A. **Regular BOE meeting, May 11, 2015 (enclosure)**

***Motion by Mr. Browe, second by Mr. Hurley to approve the minutes.***

Corrections - Add minority report enclosure notation to end of minutes.  
Dr. Laubstein name correction in public comment.

**Vote unanimous with one abstention (Mr. Horwitz)**

**Motion carried**

*{Corrections were made and minutes re-submitted}*

**8. Public Comment**

Dr. Brian Laubstein from Bethany spoke about the letter he received from the curriculum director in response to his question regarding the middle school science curriculum, in particular biology, at the May Board meeting.

**9. Student Report**

Mr. George Grotheer gave an update on events at Amity High School over the past month as well as informing the Board of upcoming events, including graduation. This is Mr. Grotheer's final report to the Board since he will be graduating.

Mr. Blake congratulated Mr. Grotheer on a job well done and thanked him on behalf of the Board for his service this school year.

The Board adjourned to executive session at 7:00 pm for agenda item #4.

The Board returned from executive session at 7:14 pm.

**4. Discussion and possible action on appointment of Amity Regional High School Principal**

Dr. Dumais recommended that, based on the extensive screening and interview process, the Board appoint Ms. Anna Mahon as the new Amity Regional High School Principal, beginning on July 1, 2015, at a salary of \$145,871.

***Motion by Ms. Cohen, second by Ms. Crocco to appoint Ms. Anna Mahon as the new Amity Regional High School principal beginning on July 1, 2015, at a salary of \$145,871.***

Vote unanimous

Motion carried

**5. Recognition of departing BOE member**

Mr. James Horwitz, who has served on the Board for 4 years and also serves as treasurer for the District will be leaving His Board position after this meeting. Mr. Blake thanked him for his service and for his succinct, clear and wise voice on the Board; he will be missed.

**6. Break**

The Board took a break at 7:20 pm and reconvened at 7:30 pm

**10. Presentation on science standards – Mr. Matt Filip/Ms. Barbara Haag**

Dr. McPadden introduced Mr. Filip and Ms. Haag, chair of Science Department at the high school and Ms. Haag, Science Content Chair at Orange Middle School. The presented An Invitation to Consider Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) put forth by the State of Connecticut. Amity's science standards have been in place since 2004 and unchanged. Discussion, questions and comments followed. Dr. McPadden told that Board that Mr. Filip and Ms. Haag have been invited to participate on two different State committees concerning NGSS.

**11. Capstone presentation (attachment)**

Dr. Dumais introduced Ms. LaPlante and Ms. Mahon who presented the current plan for the capstone project. Questions and discussion followed.

**12. Update on fuel cell and natural gas delivery to Amity Middle School – Orange campus (enclosure)**

Dr. Dumais introduced the representatives from UI who were present to answer questions regarding the natural gas installation. He stated that the return on investment is good, will pay for itself in two years. There were several questions which were answered by the UI representatives.

***Motion by Mr. Stirling, second by Mr. Hurley to move item 17.A.5.b.5 to this point in the agenda.***

**17.A.5.b.5 Conversion of boilers and hot water boiler to natural gas at Amity Middle School, Orange Campus**

Vote unanimous

Motion carried

*Motion by Mr. Stirling, second by Mr. Hurley to award the project of converting the boilers and domestic hot water boiler from oil to natural gas at Amity Middle School – Orange Campus to SK Mechanical, LLC of Manchester, Connecticut for the bid price of \$60,495.*

Vote unanimous

Motion carried

*Motion by Mr. Browe, second by Ms. Crocco to make the following budget transfer to the Reserve Fund for Capital and Nonrecurring Expenditures to pay SK Mechanical, LLC, of Manchester, Connecticut, to convert the boilers and domestic hot water boiler from oil to natural gas at Amity Middle School – Orange Campus: Transfer from account number 03-14-2600-5621 Natural Gas, to account number 05-15-000-5856, Transfer account, in the amount of \$4,395.*

There were several questions regarding the required permits and timeline for the installation which were answered by the UI representatives and Mr. Saisa.

*Motion by Mr. Hurley, second by Ms. Gedansky, to authorize Dr. Dumais to enter into the necessary agreements with UIL Holdings to implement the natural gas conversion at Amity Middle School, Orange Campus.*

Vote unanimous, 1 abstention (Mr. Browe)

Motion carried

Dr. Dumais updated the Board regarding the fuel cell contract. There are no substantive changes to report at this time.

**13. Acceptance of gift (enclosure)**

*Motion by Ms. Cohen, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Browe to accept the gift of \$100.00 from The New Haven Mineral Club to Orange Middle School.*

Vote unanimous

Motion carried

**14. Discussion and possible action on district goals and objectives – second reading (enclosure)**

*Motion by Mr. Stirling, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Crocco to accept the Board of Education district goals and objectives for 2015-2016.*

There were questions and discussion on the timeline for updating the Board of Education district goals for 2015-2016. Dr. Dumais explained that this is part of a process of moving the yearly goals back in time to come after the Superintendent's evaluation.

Vote unanimous

Motion carried

**15. Correspondence – none.**

**16. Superintendent's Report**

**A. Personnel Report – (enclosure)**

Dr. Dumais announced that R. J. Kaoud will be the new Student Liason to the Board for 2015-2016. R. J. is working to coordinate the high school student government with the student governments of the two middle schools.

**B. Other**

Dr. Dumais gave a short update on legislative action on mastery learning; curriculum portal for parents is almost ready to be opened; good feedback was received regarding the high school principal search process.

**17. Chairman's Report -**

**A. Committee Reports**

**1. ACES** - nothing to report.

**2. CABE** - A summary of the legislative session will take place in Hartford tomorrow, Tuesday June 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am for any who are interested.

3. **Curriculum** – The Curriculum Committee has not met.
4. **Facilities** – The Facilities Committee has not met.
  - A. **Facilities Department monthly report, June 2015 (enclosure)**  
Ms. Cardozo commended and thanked Mr. Saisa for his monthly report.
5. **Finance**
  - A. **Status report on Board goal: fostering a district cultures of maximizing cost savings and efficiencies. (enclosure)**  
Mr. Levine reported on the continuing cost savings and the energized culture looking for cost savings district-wide. Mr. Blake thanked Mr. Levine for his hard work on behalf of the entire Board and commended him on being the recipient of an award from the business managers in the State of Connecticut and the Connecticut Quality Improvement Award for best practices in non-profits.
  - B. **Discussion and Possible Action on Contracts of \$35,000 or More**
    1. **Student athletic insurance**
    2. **Asphalt repairs**
    3. **Trash and recycling removal services**
    4. **Stop-Loss program**
    5. **Conversion of boilers and hot water boiler to natural gas at Amity Middle School – Orange Campus** – covered above under agenda item #12

Mr. Hurley recused himself from voting on items 1 and 4; therefore the Board will vote on #2 and #3 together and #1 and #4 together.

***Motion by Mr Horwitz, second by Ms. Cardozo to award asphalt repair services, as needed by the District, to Greenway Industries of Danbury, Connecticut for July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016 at the bid prices of \$3.00 per square foot for repairs of 3,000 square feet and above; \$3.50 per square foot for 1,000 to 3,000 square feet; and \$5.50 per square foot for under 1,000 square feet. The Board reserves the right to cancel the contract if Greenway Industries of Danbury, Connecticut fails to perform in a satisfactory manner;***  
and

***to award the trash and recycling removal service to All American Waste LLC of New Haven, Connecticut for a three-year contract at the bid price of \$115,844.94, not including extra charges for additional pick-ups. The annual payment will be \$38,614.98, not including extra charges for additional pick-ups. The Board reserves the right to cancel the contract if All American Waste of New Haven, Connecticut fails to perform in a satisfactory manner.***

Vote unanimous

Motion carried

***Motion by Mr. Horwitz, second by Ms. Crocco to award the Student Accident Insurance for the 2015-2016 school year to Abbate Insurance Associates of New Haven, Connecticut for the quoted price of \$28,792.00, which includes Catastrophic Accident Insurance. There are two option years. The Board reserves the right to cancel the contract if Abbate Insurance Associates of New Haven fails to perform in a satisfactory manner;***  
and

***to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to enter into an agreement with the School District Stop Loss Purchasing Group for 2015-2016 if the terms and conditions are favorable to the District. The Superintendent of Schools is authorized to enter into an agreement with Anthem for the District's Stop-Loss Insurance if School District Stop Loss Purchasing Group does not provide terms and conditions favorable to the District. The Superintendent of Schools may request the Board extend the contract or agreement up to two additional years without bidding.***

Vote unanimous (abstention Mr. Hurley)

Motion carried

C. Discussion and possible action on food service operations (enclosure)

**1. Update on possible re-bidding requirement**

Ms. Lumas explained the possibility of a rebidding process and the changes in the school lunch program.

**2. Discussion and possible vote on extension of contract**

*Motion by Ms. Cohen, second by Ms. Crocco, to recommend that the Amity Board of Education award a one-year contract extension for food service operations for 2015-2016 to Compass Group, USA, Inc. (Chartwells) per the proposed Amendment and the Director of Finance and Administration is authorized to sign the Amendment*

Vote unanimous

Motion carried

**3. Discussion and possible vote on increase in lunch prices**

**4. Discussion and possible vote on increase in a la carte prices**

*Motion by Mr. Stirling, second by Mr. Horwitz, to recommend to the Amity Finance Committee to authorize the food service provider to raise lunch prices by 0.10 per Type A meal in all three schools for 2015-2016 and the Director of Finance and Administration is authorized to approve increases in a la carte items.*

Vote unanimous

Motion carried

**5. Discussion and possible vote on healthy food certification statement**

*Motion by Ms. Gedansky, second by Mr. Horwitz to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to sign Form Emergency Department-099 indicating that Amity Regional School District No. 5 will exclude from certification food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards, provided that (1) such good is sold in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend and (2) such sale is at the location of the event, and (3) such food is not sold from a vending machine or school store.*  
*and*

*to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to sign Form Emergency Department-099 indicating that Amity Regional School District No. 5 will certify that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under our jurisdiction, and no exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will meet said standards during the period of July 01, 2015 through June 30, 2016.*

Vote 10 in favor, 1 opposed (Mr. Hurley)

Motion carried

**D. Discussion of Monthly Financial Statements**

**E. Discussion of possible uses of year-end fund balance**

Mr. Levine explained the information in the memo regarding possible use of year-end funds. Questions and discussion followed, particularly regarding the OPEB Trust.

**F. Director of Finance and Administration approved transfers under \$3,000**

- G. Discussion and Possible Action on Budget Transfers of \$3,000 or More  
1. Fiscal year 2014-2015

*Motion by Mr. Stirling, second by Mr. Horwitz, to transfer all fund as in Jack Levine's memo of June 03, 2015, listed below:*

*Account number 01-14-2600-5420, Repairs, maintenance and cleaning, to account number 03-14-2600-5420, Repairs, maintenance and cleaning in the amount of \$8,974 for the purposed of installing a new wrestling mat hoist in the small gymnasium at Amity Regional High School.*

*Account number 02-14-2600-5420 Repairs, maintenance and cleaning, to account number 03-14-2600-5420, Repairs, maintenance and cleaning in the amount of \$3,655 for the purpose of repairing or replacing fencing along the soccer and lacrosse fields at Amity Regional High School*

*Account number 02-14-2600-5413 Maintenance/custodial supplies, to account number 03-14-2600-5420, Repairs, maintenance and cleaning in the amount of \$3,885 for the purpose of repairing cracks on the tennis courts at Amity Regional High School.*

*Account number 02-14-2600-5413 Maintenance/custodial supplies, to account number 03-14-2600-5420, Repairs, maintenance and cleaning in the amount of \$8,250 for the purpose of installing a scuttle hatch at Amity Regional High School.*

*Account number 03-13-2400-5330, Other professional and technical services, to account number 05-14-2510-5730, Equipment-new, in the amount of \$11,313 for the purpose of purchasing five fireproof file cabinets for the District Offices to be used to store confidential personnel files.*

*Account number 03-13-2400-5330, Other professional and technical services, to account number 01-14-2600-5620, Oil used for heating, in the amount of \$15,912 for the purpose of purchasing 7,200 gallons of heating oil at the daily rate on the date of purchase (estimated at \$2.21 per gallon) for Amity Middle School – Bethany Campus.*

*Account number 02-14-2600-5420 Repairs, maintenance and cleaning, to account number 03-14-2600-5420, Repairs, maintenance and cleaning in the amount of \$4,218 for the purpose of repairing the elevator at Amity Regional High School.*

Discussion and questions followed regarding various items above.

Vote unanimous

Motion carried

2. Fiscal year 2015-2016

*Motion by Mr. Browe, second by Mr. Horwitz to make the following budget transfers: from account numbers 01-11-1009-5641 Texts and digital resources, 02-11-1009-5641 Texts and digital resources and 05-13-2213-5641 Texts and digital resources in the amounts of \$3,073, \$3,073 and \$57 respectively (total of \$6,203), to account number 03-11-1009-5641 Texts and digital resources.*

Vote unanimous

Motion carried

**6. Policy**

**A. Policy 6146.1 Grading/Assessment Systems – second reading (enclosure)**

*Motion by Mr. Browe, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Crocco to accept Policy 6146.1.*

**Vote unanimous**

**Motion carried**

**B. Policy 6146 Graduation Requirements – second reading (enclosure)**

*Motion by Ms. Cohen, second by Mr. Browe to accept Policy 6146.*

**Vote unanimous**

**Motion carried**

**C. Policy 2151/4111 Recruitment and Selection of Administrative Staff- second reading (enclosure)**

*Motion by Ms. Cohen, second by Ms. Gedansky to accept policy 2151/4111.*

**Vote unanimous**

**Motion carried**

**D. Policy 6146.2 Statewide proficiency/mastery examinations – first reading (enclosure)**

Dr. Dumais and Mr. Hurley explained the changes in the policy; the changes were made with an eye toward making it more generic so as to be more flexible with changes that are certain to come from the State.

**7. Personnel**

Dr. Dumais will prepare non-union salaries for the August meeting.

**18. Items for next agenda** – please forward any items to Dr. Dumais or Mr. Blake for the next regularly scheduled meeting on August 10, 2015.

**19. Adjournment**

*Motion by Mr. Horwitz, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Stirling to adjourn at 9:35 pm.*

**Vote unanimous**

**Motion carried**

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth E. Natzel, Recording Clerk

Thomas Hurley, Secretary

**Attachments:**

**11. Attachment, Amity Regional High School Capstone Project**

**12. Attachment, memo from Mr. Levine, June 08, 2015**