

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. Thomas Hurley, Ms. Tracey Lane Russo, Ms. Sheila McCreven and Mr. James Stirling.

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Mr. James Horwitz.

**Staff members present:** Dr. Charles Dumais, Ms. Terry Lumas, Dr. Marie McPadden, Dr. Charles Dellinger, Ms. Jill LaPlante and Ms. Kathleen Fuller-Cutler, Ms. Serapiglia and Ms. Mirci.

**Also present:** Mrs. Ruth Natzel, Mr. George Grotheer, and other members of the public

A regular meeting of the Amity Regional Board of Education (BOE) was held on Monday, May 11, 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 6:34 pm.

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

3. **Recognition of Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) Student Awardees.**

Presentation of the CABE Student Leadership awards was made by Dr. Charles Dellinger, Ms. Jill LaPlante and Ms. Kathleen Fuller-Cutler to: Sana Pashankar and Thomas Livsay (Amity Middle School Bethany); Soo-Jin Park, Colton Varholak (Amity Middle School Orange); Eli Baum and Helen Lui (Amity High School).

Chairman Blake congratulated the students and their parents and teachers for their hard work and success; he then called for a short recess at 6:40 pm so that the public could adjourn.

Mr. Blake called meeting back to order at 6:51 pm.

Motion by Mr. Hurley, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Browe to go to Item #7 on the agenda, Peru trip presentation.

**Vote unanimous**

**Motion carried**

7. **Presentation on Peru trip**

Ms. Elena Serapiglia and Ms. Claudia Mirci (teachers) and Teddy Maranets, Marissa Proto and Sameer Nawaz (students) presented information about their trip using photos to illustrate. Chairman Blake thanked the teachers and the students for their presentation.

4. **Approval of minutes.**

A. **Regular BOE meeting, April 13, 2015 (enclosure)**

**Motion by Ms. Cohen, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Gedansky to approve the minutes as submitted.**

Two corrections – Mr. George Grotheer 1<sup>st</sup> selectman in attendance should be Laurence Grotheer; page 3, listed votes as 9 in favor, should be changed to 8.

*{Minutes were corrected and resubmitted}*

**Vote unanimous**

**Motion carried**

B. **Annual District Meeting on the budget, May 05, 2015 (enclosure)**

**Motion by Mr. Hurley, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Gedansky to approve the minutes as submitted.**

**Vote unanimous****Motion carried****5. Public Comment**

Dr. Lowenstein from Bethany, father of two 7<sup>th</sup> grade students at Amity Middle School - Bethany, had a concern regarding the science curriculum at the middle schools, specifically Bethany. The concern is that biology is being skipped in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. A handout was given regarding grades for one class, "study island assignments". (enclosure)

**6. 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 multiple upcoming events. The Mr. Spartan Competition took place last Thursday; Matt Sacco was the winner and \$1,000 was raised for the Senior Prom. The Junior Prom also took place and the Senior Prom is this coming week. Senior internships will begin this week as well. In response to a question from Mr. Blake, Mr. Grotheer stated he is actively looking for a candidate to succeed him after his graduation.

**8. Discussion and action on Teacher and Administration Evaluation Plan (enclosure)**

Dr. McPadden presented the Plan to the Board. Dr. McPadden and Dr. Dumais answered multiple questions regarding specifics of the Plan from the Board members.

***Motion by Mr. Browe, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Gedansky to accept the 2015-2016 Teacher Evaluation and Development Model as presented on May 11, 2015.***

**Vote 10 in favor, 1 opposed (Ms. McCreven)****Motion carried****9. Discussion of district goals/objectives (enclosures)**

Dr. Dumais presented the district goals and objectives and pointed out some changes and high points. Dr. Dumais gave the Board members a handout from Southern as a comparison to Amity.

**10. Correspondence**

- A. Letter Re: Graduation date (enclosure)**
- B. Thank you note – Boy's cross country team (enclosure)**

**11. Superintendent's Report**

- A. Personnel Report – (enclosure)**

Dr. Dumais highlighted the 2 resignations effective at the end of the school year.

Mr. Blake mentioned the Board-sponsored retirement/years of service dinner would take place on June 10, 2015 and Board members are encouraged to attend.

Dr. Dumais gave the Board members a handout with a graph of the percentage of "yes" budget votes from each of the 3 Amity communities.

**B. Other**

Dr. Dumais gave an update regarding the negotiations with United Illuminating. Construction is planned to begin once school is out if this is approved by the Board.

Policy Committee meetings are scheduled for June 4<sup>th</sup> and June 27<sup>th</sup>, Personnel Committee on June 4<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. Dumais highlighted teachers and staff that have received awards and recognition.

Dr. Dumais addressed the question raised in Public Comment at the request of a Board member regarding the middle school science curriculum. He will ask Dr. McPadden to address this in writing.

The search for a high school principal is moving forward.

The Budget passed by a 2:1 margin.

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

1. **ACES** - no meeting
2. **CABE** - Ms. McCreven reported that CABE is hosting a webinar that Board members can dial in to. There is some concern about the new calculation by the State for the minimum budget requirement.
3. **Curriculum** – The Curriculum Committee has not met.
4. **Facilities** – The Facilities Committee has not met.
  - A. **Facilities Department monthly report, March 2015 (enclosure)**
5. **Finance**
  - A. **Discussion and Possible Action on Tuition Rate 2015 – 2016**

*Motion by Ms. Cardozo, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Cohen that the Amity Board of Education approve the non-resident tuition rate for 2015-2016 school year at \$15,189.00.*

Ms. Stirling noted that approval of this rate was recommended by the Finance Committee.

**Vote 10 in favor, 1 opposed (Mr. Browe)**

**Motion carried**

- B. **Discussion and Possible Action on Contracts of \$35,000 or More**
  1. **Workers' Compensation Insurance**
  2. **Liability, Automotive, Property (LAP) Insurance**

*Motion by Ms. Cohen, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Crocco to award the Workers' Compensation Insurance for July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016, to Connecticut Interlocal Risk Management Agency (CIRMA) of New Haven, Connecticut, at the premium of \$219,273 plus the audit premium to be determined; award the Liability, Automobile, Property Insurance to Connecticut Interlocal Risk Management Agency (CIRMA) of New Haven, Connecticut, for the base premium of \$150,729 for July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016, and for the following two-years with a maximum possible 6 % yearly premium increase.*

**Vote unanimous (Mr. Hurley recused himself)**

**Motion carried**

- C. **Discussion of Monthly Financial Statements (enclosure)**
- D. **Director of Finance and Administration Approved Transfers Under \$3,000.**
- E. **Discussion and Possible Action on Budget Transfers of \$3,000 or More**

*Motion by Mr. Stirling, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Browe to authorize the Director of Finance and Administration to make the necessary budget transfers to salary and benefit accounts and to pay other standard charges. These budget transfers may exceed \$3,000. The Director of Finance and Administration will report all budget transfers made to the Amity Finance Committee and Amity Board of Education.*

**Vote unanimous**

**Motion carried**

### F. Discussion and Possible Action on New Funding Requests

We have discussed the MicroGrid project and Fuel Cell project and our plan to put a heat exchanger at Amity Regional High School to reclaim the heat. This would provide energy savings. The final cost for the heat exchanger and any associated incentives and rebates have yet to be determined. There are no funds in the 2015-2016 budget for the heat exchanger. Mr. Levine is recommending the remaining balance in the Contingency Account be transferred to the Reserve Fund for Capital Nonrecurring Expenditures. The funds would be designated for the heat exchanger.

***Motion by Mr. Stirling, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Browe, to make the budget transfer of \$105,260 from account 05-15-5850 Contingency Account, to 05-15-5866 Transfer Account/Reserve Fund for Capital Nonrecurring Expenditures and designate these funds for the purchase of a heat exchanger at Amity Regional High School.***

Mr. Stirling stated that the Finance Committee recommended that the Board approve this transfer tonight; he further explained that now would be the time to show United Illuminating that money has been set aside since this would strengthen our negotiating position; there is nothing lost by making the transfer tonight and funds can be returned if the Board so chooses.

There was further discussion regarding the need for transferring the money now or waiting until a future meeting.

***Motion by Ms. McCreven to postpone the motion to transfer funds of \$105,260 from account 05-15-5850 Contingency Account, to 05-15-5866 Transfer Account/Reserve Fund for Capital Nonrecurring Expenditures and designate these funds for the purchase of a heat exchanger at Amity Regional High School indefinitely until such time as there is a decision to be made regarding the approval of the FuelCell contract.***

Mr. Blake yielded the Chair to Ms. Cohen so that he could make a comment. Mr. Blake spoke in support of the original motion and against the motion to postpone. Ms. Cohen then yielded the Chair back to Mr. Blake. More comments and discussion followed.

**Vote on motion to postpone 2 in favor (Ms. McCreven, Mr. Demaio), opposed 9**

**Motion failed**

**Vote on motion to transfer funds, 9 in favor, 2 opposed (Ms. McCreven, Mr. Demaio)**

**Motion carried**

### G. Other

**1. Update on MicroGrid Project** – this was covered under item 5F above.

#### 6. Policy

**A. ByLaw 9325 Meeting Conduct – Second Read (Enclosure)**

Motion by Ms. Cohen, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Hurley to accept ByLaw 9325 as presented on May 11, 2015.

**Vote unanimous**

**Motion carried**

**B. Policy 6146.1 Grading/Assessment Systems – First Read (Enclosure)**

**C. Policy 6146 Graduation Requirements – First Read (Enclosure)**

**Policy 6146 Graduation Requirements - Blackline Version (Enclosure)**

**D. Policy 2151/4111 Recruitment and Selection of Administrative Staff First Read (Enclosure)**

Mr. Hurley asked the Board members to read the policies noted above before the next meeting and to direct any suggestions or changes to him or to Ms. Cohen.

Mr. Dumais explained the changes to Policy 6146 and 2151/4111.

There was discussion regarding the reporting of a dissenting opinion from two members of the Policy Committee regarding Policy 6146. Roberts Rules (Article 4, section 30) were checked regarding the proper use and writing of minority reports. The minutes from the Policy Committee meeting on May 7<sup>th</sup>, (enclosed), are considered the majority viewpoint.

## **7. Personnel**

### **A. Update on High School Principal Search – covered in the Superintendent’s Report.**

Mr. Hurley made the Board aware of thoughts he has regarding changing the Board’s committee structure, numbers of committee members, etc. The chairman, Mr. Hurley and Dr. Dumais will discuss this and present their suggestions.

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

Mr. Demaio requested that the Policy Committee look at Policy number 1331A.e, naming of facilities, at their next meeting.

## **14. Adjournment**

***Motion by Mr. Browe , 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Gedansky to adjourn at 9:23 pm.***

**Vote unanimous**

**Motion carried**

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth E. Natzel, Recording Clerk

Thomas Hurley, Secretary