

## MINUTES

**AMITY BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Julie Altman, William Blake, Christopher Browe, Patricia Cardozo, Sue Cohen, Diane Crocco, Steven DeMaio, Rita Gedansky, James Horwitz, Thomas Hurley, Tracey Lane Russo, James Stirling

**AMITY BOARD MEMBER ABSENT:** John A. Grasso, Jr.

**Staff Members Present:** John Brady, Charles Britton, Deborah Day, Richard Dellinger, Deb DeMeo, Kathleen Cutler-Fuller, Kevin Keller, Jack Levine, Marianne Lippard, Mary Raiola, Ralph Schuster, Sheila Wycinowski

**Also Present:** Thomas Falcigno, Mitchell Goldblatt; other members of the Public

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A regular meeting of the Amity Regional Board of Education was held on Monday, June 11, 2012 at 6:45 p.m. in the Presentation Room at the District Offices.

1. **Call to Order:** William Blake called the meeting to order at 6:49 p.m.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance** was recited by those present.
3. **Approval of Minutes**
  - a. **Regular Board of Education Meeting, May 14, 2012**  
*Motion to approve the minutes as presented* (Mr. Hurley, 2d Mr. Stirling)  
*Discussion:* Sue Cohen noted some corrections.  
*Vote in favor of approving the minutes as corrected:* unanimous  
***Motion passed.***

4. **Presentation of Awards of Excellence**

Dr. Brady invited Ralph Schuster to join him at the podium. Dr. Brady announced that Mr. Schuster was chosen from a staff of over 150 for an award. As a building maintainer, he ensures that the buildings are the best that they can be. He is an extremely valuable employee in the Amity Regional School District.

Dr. Brady invited Deborah Day to be recognized. Ms. Day, a science teacher, is Amity's Teacher of the Year. She shows commitment, dedication and perseverance. The success rate for Amity's science research program is phenomenal.

**5. Recognition of Members of Amity Creative Theater; Alli Kramer, Sloan Churchill, Rob Kennedy and Andrea Kennedy**

Dr. Brady announced that the High School's spring production of Legally Blonde was a huge success, selling out for five nights. The production was nominated for numerous awards. He congratulated Sloan Churchill and Alli Kramer, who had big roles in the production. Sloan got an award from the Connecticut High School Music Theater. Alli was recognized as outstanding female lead in the state for 2012. On June 20<sup>th</sup>, Alli will go to New York City and perform on a Broadway stage.

Andrea Kennedy and Robert Kennedy also were recognized by Dr. Brady. Ms. Kennedy handled the choreography for Legally Blonde and Robert Kennedy provided outstanding direction. Ms. Kennedy was recognized for Hair and Makeup in the show and Mr. Kennedy was nominated for Best Scene Design.

Dr. Brady also was recognized by the Board for receiving the President's Award at the Connecticut High School Musical Theater Awards for his support of the Arts.

**6. Presentation on Black Box Theater**

Dr. Brady noted that the Amity Creative Theater program has grown. A Black Box Theater would benefit Amity Creative Theater as it would provide a smaller setting for productions. The space would be well suited for material produced by students.

Mr. Kennedy showed slides of Black Box Theaters at Hamden High, Staples and Southern Connecticut State University. A Black Box Theater is a flexible space with black walls. These theaters are used for plays or performances with limited technical needs. Mr. Kennedy noted that the roof decks are approximately 25 feet above the floor.

The Black Box Theater could serve a multitude of uses. The theater can be used for debates, dances, rehearsals, speakers, art shows, plays, music, meetings, poetry readings, and more. The space can be configured so that the audience can sit on four sides, or in a number of alternative setups. Mirrors can be installed behind the black walls for dance practices.

Jonathan Furst noted that a choral room is being considered as a space for the theater. Adjacent space might provide the chance for Amity to have a radio station at the High School. Mr. Furst said that the theater has many real-world applications. He can envision history demonstrations and scientific presentations taking place in the theater using state-of-the-art technology.

*Discussion:*

Ms. Cohen asked if the room is all black. She questioned the size of the space.

Mr. Kennedy said that it would be black. A mural could be covered, but a permanent cover would not be used. The room would seat a little more than 100 people.

Mr. Stirling asked if the space could be used by Student Government. Mr. Kennedy said that the space is not just for the theater department. A screen could be used on any of the four walls.

Dr. Britton said that the space being considered is the choir room next to the orchestra room. The tiers would remain on the other side.

Mr. Kennedy noted that there are three exits. The room is also set up for heating and cooling.

Mr. Stirling added that the Amity Finance Committee acted on this item at an earlier meeting.

**7. First Reading of a Revision to Policy 5145.122(a) Use of Dogs to Search School Property**

Mr. Blake said that this is the first reading of the policy by the full Board. If there are suggestions, revisions can be acted on. The Policy Committee considered revisions to the policy.

Ms. Cohen summarized what the Policy Committee has been working on. A policy was adopted on May 12, 2008 allowing dogs to come into the school buildings and sniff for drugs, but the dogs would not be allowed near students. The administration would do a reasonable search. She noted that there is a movement to allow the drug sniffing dogs to sniff students. The Committee is in the process of determining whether this is legal. She noted that Mr. Hurley will represent the ideas of those in favor of a change.

Mr. Blake said that the advice from legal counsel is that reasonable suspicion needs to be reasonable “individualized” suspicion.

Mr. Hurley said that he is not in favor of running through the building with drug dogs. A dog trained for this type of work will tap its nose where drugs are detected. A minor change to the policy is being recommended. The Committee members voting in favor wanted to add “except as permitted by law” to the policy. Fourth Amendment rights would be protected. This will fill a hole in the policy. Some students will hide drugs in their clothes since they know that, according to the current policy, they are safe from this type of search. Amity does

have a search and seizure policy. This is a minor change. Under no circumstances would an aggressive dog search be permitted. The dogs used only point with their nose.

Ms. Cohen said that she isn't interested in having Amity be the first school district in the state to allow these types of searches. This should be addressed by the administration. Most kids are in school to learn. Living under the threat of searches emphasizes the negative over the positive. The negative message outweighs the positive. She would rather not see dogs policing students.

Mr. Blake said that this can be taken up again in August.

Ms. Russo said that this is an emerging area. General Counsel gave an accurate overview. The language being considered is not promoting sniffing students. She supports the change.

Mr. DeMaio said that he would like to make a motion to table this item and bring it up again in September.

Mr. Blake said that the topic isn't being voted on this evening.

Mr. Browe said that he supports Mr. DeMaio's suggestion. There are parents at this meeting who would like to speak about this topic.

Mr. Blake said that he will put this topic on the agenda for September.

Mr. Horwitz said that he would like to echo Ms. Cohen's sentiments. The officer who attended the Policy Committee said that the dog is 100 percent accurate, which cannot be true. Students would be falsely accused of having drugs. The Board hasn't been asked for a more rigorous policy. The policy that Amity has is effective and lawful. The drug problem at Amity does not call for this type of policy.

Ms. Altman said that a number of Board members weren't present for the Policy Committee meeting. There is not overwhelming support for the proposed changes.

Ms. Russo said that students are currently segregated during dog searches. The policy offers more protection than what is allowed by the statutes. A more global policy is needed.

Dr. Brady noted that the proposed change would allow a dog to search a student if a drug sniffing canine alerted on a particular vehicle. If drugs were found in a car, a student could be searched.

Mr. Browe said that there is a hole in the current policy. The best tool available is the dog. A breathalyzer is more invasive, but legal at dances. This type of search is passive and easy to do. Students would not be searched without reasonable suspicion.

Ms. Cohen said that dances are not suitable as examples for comparison, since students aren't required to attend.

**8. Public Comment**

Salvan Hines of Woodbridge said that there are concerns about drug use at the school. Decisions on this topic should be based on solid scientific research. False positives influenced by dog handlers have been documented. It is essential to base choices on science. Programs should be pursued that are backed by evidence-based research.

Sandra Wallen of Woodbridge said that she works at the Yale School of Medicine and questioned a statement made by a police officer that the drug dogs are 100 percent accurate. Based on her research, the studies seem to be in agreement that the dogs aren't 100 percent accurate. By allowing dogs to search students, the school system is telling students that they aren't respected. The money and energy that would go into this could be better spent.

Sheila McCreven of Woodbridge said that she sees problems with an officer's comment that the dogs are infallible. She feels that this statement could not possibly be true. The current policy is fine. She isn't saying that there isn't any problem, but is concerned about how the problem is addressed. When a student is exhibiting signs of drug use, mental health issues should be explored. Parents should be brought into this conversation so that the real issues can be explored. Using drug dogs isn't the best way to handle drugs at the High School.

Debbie Esposito of Orange said that she has two children attending school in the District. As a mother, she has real concerns. Children doing drugs casually at the High School is a prevalent problem. This topic needs to be discussed more. She suggested drug testing for participation in random activities.

Tom Handler of Woodbridge said that he agrees that the drug problem needs to be addressed. There will be people on both sides of this discussion. Addressing the problem will improve the goals of the District; however, the new wording being proposed for the policy will add more holes. He questioned why a dog is needed to perform a search. Some students are allergic to dogs or afraid of dogs. The change being considered isn't minor.

Mitchell Goldblatt of Orange said that he is a father of two children in the Amity schools and said the High School is supposed to be drug-free. He questioned what the rights are for the students who don't want drugs in their school. The current policy has been described by students as a joke. The students know how

to get around the policy. Maybe there are false positives, but if there is a false positive and nothing is found, then nothing would happen to the student. Students who aren't doing drugs have rights.

Elias Alexiades of Woodbridge said that, contrary to popular belief, students do have rights. The dogs should not be at Amity. A drug sniffing dog at an earlier meeting alerted to a reporter. We should not be stigmatizing students. He has concerns about false alerts.

#### **9. Student Report**

Thomas Falcigno said that he would like to start by addressing the revision to the policy concerning the use of dogs to search school property. He was originally going to come out in support of the policy. Students responded to an opinion poll on the topic of dog searches and the votes were split. He asked that the students' feelings be taken into consideration. He reported that the students recently held a blood drive and 76 pints of blood were collected. Last week, Senior Awards Night was held and there were many accomplishments to celebrate for the Class of 2012. Many seniors received scholarships. Recently, the Evening of the Arts took place and 35 artists were inducted into the National Art Honor Society. A Community Service Breakfast was held recently and 160 seniors will be recognized at graduation for their community service work. He noted that this week is the last week of regular classes. Several events for seniors will take place next week.

#### **10. Discussion and Possible Action on DRAFT 2012-2013 District Goals**

*Motion to approve the DRAFT 2012-2013 District Goals (Ms. Russo, 2d Mr. Browe).*

*Vote in favor unanimous.*

*Motion passed.*

#### **11. Announcements from the Board and Administration**

Mr. Blake mentioned the passing of Joseph Abbatiello, a former member of the Board. He said that Mr. Abbatiello was a steady, solid influence on the Board. A memorial service will take place on Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup>.

#### **12. Correspondence**

There was no discussion.

#### **13. Superintendent's Report**

##### **a. Personnel Report**

Dr. Brady said that there is an addition to the Personnel Report. Special Education Teacher Megan Wilson has resigned. She is very knowledgeable about the applications of iPads. She has obtained employment working in technology.

##### **b. Information on Preliminary Investigation of Solar Energy**

Dr. Brady said that Facilities Director Jim Saisa is investigating solar technology that would be suitable for all three schools. The Facilities

Committee might want to discuss this. Mr. Hurley said that there has to be a way to get rid of snow without damaging the solar panels. The gas pipeline work is scheduled to get underway in the middle of July and more discussion will take place at a later date.

c. Information on Spring Athletics

Dr. Brady informed the Board of various athletic accomplishments. The spring season finished on a positive note for a number of Amity teams.

Dr. Brady noted that the Orange Middle School will have a moving up ceremony at 12 p.m. on June 21, 2012. The Bethany Middle School will have a ceremony at 1 p.m. the same day. The Amity Regional High School graduation will take place on June 22, 2012 at the Dr. William Sim Athletic Complex. New bleachers are almost completely installed. This year, 115 seniors had internships, which is an increase from previous years. Post interviews will be given to students. The new 8 Period schedule might have had an impact on the upward trend, which Dr. Brady said he would like to see continue.

There has been some misconception about Amity's participation in a pilot evaluation. Dr. Brady said that Amity is not considered to be a participant in this pilot, although Bethany, Orange and Woodbridge are participating. A new Director of Curriculum was hired and Dr. Brady hasn't spoken to the new employee about this topic yet. He has heard that Amity wasn't a candidate for the pilot. The District will have to develop its own model and will be fine on its own.

**14. Chairman's Report**

Mr. Blake said that a Personnel Committee meeting and Special Board of Education meeting are scheduled to take place at 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 14<sup>th</sup>.

a. Committee Reports

1. ACES – Education goals were recently presented.
2. CABE – Mr. Stirling said that all Board members are invited to attend sessions on the various topics.
3. Curriculum – Ms. Altman said that no meeting is scheduled at this time.
4. Facilities – No meeting is scheduled at this time.
5. Finance
  - a. To Consider and Act Upon a Resolution Concerning the Authorization of Refunding Bonds for Payment of the Outstanding Principal of and Interest on All or a Portion of the District's \$5,720,000 General Obligation Bonds, Issue of 2008, and Costs Related Thereto

Mr. Levine explained that the administration was advised on refunding bonds. The 2008 bonds at four percent can be refinanced below three percent. The District would save approximately the amount for the bond for the roof. This is an opportunity to take advantage of Amity's

excellent credit rating. There would not be a substantial savings the first year, but over the life the savings would be approximately \$241,000.

*Motion to approve the following resolution (Mr. Browe, 2d Ms. Cohen):*

**RESOLUTION OF BOARD OF EDUCATION  
OF REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NUMBER 5  
AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF NOT EXCEEDING \$3,000,000  
REFUNDING BONDS FOR PAYMENT IN WHOLE OR IN PART OF THE  
OUTSTANDING PRINCIPAL OF AND INTEREST ON THE DISTRICT'S  
\$5,720,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, ISSUE OF 2008 OF REGIONAL  
DISTRICT NUMBER 5, AND COSTS RELATED THERETO  
(June 11, 2012)**

RESOLVED,

(a) That Regional School District Number 5 issue its refunding bonds, in an amount not to exceed THREE MILLION DOLLARS (\$3,000,000), the proceeds of which are hereby appropriated: (1) to fund one or more escrows, and to apply the balance held in such escrows, together with the investment earnings thereon, to the payment in whole or in part, as to be determined by the Chairman of the Board of Education and the Treasurer of the District, of the outstanding principal of and interest on the District's \$5,720,000 General Obligation Bonds, Issue of 2008, including the payment of interest accrued on said bonds to the date of payment, and (2) to pay costs of issuance of the refunding bonds authorized hereby, including legal fees, consultants' fees, trustee or escrow agent fees, underwriters' fees, net interest and other financing costs and other costs related to the payment of the outstanding bonds described above. The refunding bonds shall be issued pursuant to Section 10-60a of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended, and any other enabling acts. The bonds shall be general obligations of the District and its member towns, secured by the irrevocable pledge of the full faith and credit of the District and its member towns.

(b) The Chairman of the Board of Education and the Treasurer of the District shall sign the bonds by their manual or facsimile signatures. The law firm of Day Pitney LLP is designated as bond counsel to approve the legality of the bonds. The Chairman and the Treasurer, or such other officer or body to whom the Board of Education delegates the authority to make such determinations, are authorized to determine the bonds to be redeemed and the amount, date, interest rates, maturities, redemption provisions, form and other details of the refunding bonds; to designate one or more banks or trust companies to be certifying bank, registrar, transfer agent and paying agent for the bonds; to provide for the keeping of a record of the bonds; to sell the bonds at public or private sale; to deliver the bonds; and to perform all other acts which are necessary or appropriate to issue the bonds.

(c) That the District hereby declares its official intent under Federal Income Tax Regulation Section 1.150-2 that costs of the refunding may be paid from temporary advances of available funds and that (except to the extent reimbursed from grant moneys) the District reasonably expects to reimburse any such advances from the proceeds of borrowings in an aggregate principal amount not in excess of the amount of borrowing authorized above for the refunding. The Chairman and the Treasurer, or such other officer or body to whom the Board of Education delegates such authority, are authorized to amend such declaration of official intent as they deem necessary or advisable in order to maintain the continued exemption from federal income taxation of interest on the bonds authorized by this resolution, if issued on a tax-exempt basis, including covenants to pay rebates of investment earnings to the United States in future years.

(d) That the Chairman and the Treasurer, or such other officer or body delegated by the Board, are authorized to make representations and enter into written agreements for the benefit of holders of the bonds to provide secondary market disclosure information, which agreements may include such terms as they deem advisable or appropriate in order to comply with applicable laws or rules pertaining to the sale or purchase of such bonds.

(e) That the Chairman and the Treasurer, or such other officer or body delegated by the Board, are authorized to take all other action which is necessary or desirable to enable the District to effectuate the refunding of all or a portion of the District's \$5,720,000 General Obligation Bonds, Issue of 2008, and to issue refunding bonds authorized hereby for such purposes, including, but not limited to, the entrance into agreements on behalf of the District with underwriters, trustees, escrow agents and others to facilitate the issuance of the refunding bonds, the escrow of the proceeds thereof and investment earnings thereon, and the payment of the outstanding bonds in whole or in part.

(f) That the above authorization to issue refunding bonds shall lapse on June 30, 2013.

*Vote in favor:* Julie Altman, Christopher Browe, Patricia Cardozo, Sue Cohen, Diane Crocco, Steven DeMaio, Rita Gedansky, James Horwitz, Tracey Lane Russo, James Stirling

*Vote opposed:* none

*Abstain:* Thomas Hurley

***Motion passed.***

- b. Discussion and Possible Action on Contracts of \$35,000 or More  
Mr. Levine said that a memo dated June 5, 2012 explains a proposed change for insurance.

Mr. Levine said that the Board of Education had awarded the contract to Trident Insurance for workers' compensation and liability, automobile, property (LAP) insurance. This year, Trident felt the

claims were too high for workers' compensation. The District received a Notice of Nonrenewal of Insurance for workers' compensation insurance from Trident Insurance in late April 2012. He asked the District's insurance agent, USI Connecticut, to solicit bids. The only firm to bid both the workers' compensation and liability, automobile, property (LAP) insurance was CIRMA (Connecticut Interlocal Risk Management Agency). Others submitted bids for LAP only from \$141,678 to \$200,000. CIRMA's bid for both workers' compensation and LAP insurance was a total package and cannot be split. Also, the workers' compensation and LAP insurance is a three-year contract.

Mr. Levine said that Amity has used CIRMA in the past and had excellent service. The bid price of \$149,010 for workers' compensation insurance is \$19,826 over budget. The bid price of \$148,997 for the LAP insurance is \$2,773 under budget.

Amity had four or five excellent years with workers' compensation.

*Motion to award the workers' compensation insurance for July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013, to Connecticut Interlock Risk Management Agency (CIRMA) of New Haven, Connecticut at the bid price of \$149,010 plus the audit premium to be determined. Price increases for years two and three will be based on payroll increases and claims; and award the liability, automobile, property insurance to Connecticut Interlock Risk Management Agency (CIRMA) of New Haven, Connecticut for the bid price of \$148,997 for July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013, with a maximum of a five-percent increase in the second and third years of the contract. This will be a three-year contract for workers' compensation and liability, automobile and property insurance (Ms. Crocco, 2d Mr. DeMaio).*

*Vote in favor:* Julie Altman, Christopher Browe, Patricia Cardozo, Sue Cohen, Diane Crocco, Steven DeMaio, Rita Gedansky, James Horwitz, Tracey Lane Russo, James Stirling

*Vote opposed:* none

*Abstain:* Thomas Hurley

Motion passed.

- c. Discussion of Monthly Financial Statements  
There was no discussion.
- d. Director of Finance and Administration Approved Transfers Under 3,000  
There was no discussion.
- e. Discussion and Possible Action on Proposed Uses of 2011-2012 Year End Balance  
Dr. Brady noted that discussion and action on this topic took place during the Amity Finance Committee held earlier this evening. A

memo from Mr. Levine to Dr. Brady, dated June 5, 2012, described potential uses for the 2011-2012 Year End Balance. The primary reason for the balance is special education transportation and tuition that will be under budget. This was due, in part, to hard work to create programs for students within the three schools so that students with out-of-district placements could be returned to the District. Also, conservation efforts and unusually warm weather resulted in lower energy costs. The memo shows Mr. Levine's recommendations for using the 2011-2012 yearend balance. Recommendations include improved wireless connectivity, technology equipment, Black Box Theater, robotics equipment, school construction grant reimbursement, early retiree reinsurance program, and self-insurance reserves.

Dr. Brady said that Amity needs to have the consistent ability to connect to the Internet during lessons. Problems with connectivity have been a limitation during the iPad pilot. At this point, the problem has been partially solved. Greater consistency would involve adding over 100 additional access points.

Ms. Russo said that this should have been in the budget for next year. She thought that everything needed had already been given.

Dr. Brady said that an incremental approach was being used earlier this year. This additional access points should be sufficient to ensure connectivity is where it needs to be.

The June 5<sup>th</sup> memo also recommended additional iPads to provide to special education teachers to use with students during classroom activities. Dr. Brady said that iPads are a real benefit to special education students, who can have textbooks read to them, increase font sizes, etc.

Mr. Hurley noted that the first request was for 210 of these units.

Mr. DeMaio said that perhaps something can be done with BOWA.

Dr. Brady noted that the District would benefit from having a robot in the Orange Middle School. He recently witnessed the work being done with the robot at the middle school in Bethany. A French company produces the robot and a rationale is needed to get to purchase one.

Mr. Hurley questioned whether a 50 percent subsidy helped with the first robot.

Mr. Levine said that the District might get a discount.

Dr. Brady told the Board that Amity might owe \$140,000 to the State. A payment schedule might be worked out.

Mr. DeMaio asked if interest is currently being paid on that money.

Dr. Brady said that interest isn't being paid. Some money also might be owed to the Federal government. Finance Manager Terry Lumas is working to learn more.

Dr. Brady noted that the Black Box Theater was discussed by the Amity Finance Committee and the Committee approved of setting aside \$150,000 for the theater. The budget for next year does not include any enhancements and this theater would help enhance the student experience at Amity. Fundraising will help make this vision a reality.

Mr. Stirling reported some of the concerns raised at the Finance Committee meeting. Some Committee members felt that money should be returned to the towns. He explained the rationale for the final decision. The Committee opted not to put any additional funds into the insurance fund. All the Committee's decisions with respect to the yearend balance were unanimous.

Dr. Brady said that as it stands currently, \$159,000 would go back to the towns.

- f. Discussion and Possible Action on Budget Transfers  
*Move to make the following budget transfer of \$7,758 to purchase a new auto scrubber for Amity High School to replace an old ServiceMaster auto scrubber (Mr. Stirling, 2d Mr. Hurley):*

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Account Name</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
03-14-2600-5330	Other Prof. and Tech. Svcs.	\$1,228	
03-14-2600-5715	Improvements to Building	\$4,215	
03-14-2600-5730	Equipment – New	\$2,315	
05-14-2310-5731	Equipment – Replacement		\$7,758

*Vote in favor unanimous.*

***Motion passed.***

- Move to make the following budget transfer of \$5,053 to do asphalt repairs at Orange Middle School (Ms. Altman, 2d Mr. Horwitz):*

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Account Name</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
01-14-2600-5720	Improvements to Sites	\$5,053	
02-14-2600-5720	Improvements to Sites		\$5,053

*Vote in favor unanimous.*

***Motion passed.***

*Move to make the following budget transfer of \$8,341 to purchase 19 iPad 2 with Wi-Fi 16GB and 19 iPad covers (Mr. Stirling, 2d Ms. Crocco):*

Account Number	Account Name	From	To
04-12-6130-5560	Tuition Expense	\$8,341	
05-14-2350-5730	Equipment – New		\$8,341

*Vote in favor unanimous.*

***Motion passed.***

*Motion to make the following budget transfer of \$12,000 to purchase a robot, software, carrying case, warranty and support (Mr. Stirling, 2d Mr. Horwitz):*

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Account Name</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
04-12-6130-5560	Tuition Expense	\$12,000	
02-11-1008-5730	Equipment – New		\$12,000

*Vote in favor unanimous.*

***Motion passed.***

g. Discussion and Possible Action on New Funding Requests

*Move to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to transfer \$150,000 to the Reserve Fund for Capital and Nonrecurring Expenditures for a Black Box Theater (Ms. Cardozo, 2d Ms. Cohen).*

*Discussion:*

Mr. Hurley said that he expected to see this in the 2012-2013 budget, not now. It's too soon for this. Something of this size and importance should have been presented to the voters. He was not expecting to see the Black Box Theater in this budget year.

Ms. Russo said that she went to New York University and the Black Box Theater there offered a wide variety of experiences. She asked if a decision could be put off. She would like this to have been part of the budget. It should've been presented to the towns. She questioned if this could be tabled.

Dr. Brady said that a decision is needed by June 30, 2012. The theater program at the High School has expanded, the money is there and the timing is appropriate. At this point, there isn't anything in the budget to enhance the experience in the District.

Mr. DeMaio questioned how many seats were sold in the auditorium. Parents and members of the community are working hard to raise money for a turf field. This sends the wrong message to the parents involved with the field project. They are attempting to raise money with no financial help.

Mr. Blake said that 60 seats have been sold. The Field House was just upgraded.

Mr. Horwitz said that the unanimous vote on the Amity Finance Committee was extraordinary. The three towns supported this. The timing suggested that the use of funds for this purpose should be done.

Mr. Browe said that the budget was worked on over and over again. The administration did an amazing job reducing the budget. It is a wonderful idea, but it sends a message.

Ms. Cardozo said that putting the money towards the Black Box Theater sends the message that the money goes back to the students. This sounds like a good investment.

Ms. Altman said that as elected representatives, the Board should give serious consideration to this.

Mr. Hurley said that he would like to amend the motion. No motion was made or seconded.

*Vote in favor:* Julie Altman, Patricia Cardozo, Sue Cohen, Diane Crocco, Rita Gedansky, James Horwitz, Tracey Lane Russo, James Stirling

*Vote opposed:* Chris Browe, Steven DeMaio, Thomas Hurley

*Abstain:* Tracey Lane Russo

***Motion passed.***

*Move to make the following budget transfer of \$69,334 to pay Aruba Networks for 133 access points, license, support and related items (Mr. Stirling, 2d Mr. Horwitz).*

*Vote in favor unanimous.*

***Motion passed.***

*Motion to return to towns any surplus remaining after approved expenditures (Ms. Stirling, 2d Mr. Hurley).*

*Vote in favor unanimous.*

***Motion passed.***

6. Policy  
This item was discussed under Item #7
  
7. Personnel
  - a. Negotiations (Executive Session)  
*Motion to enter Executive Session at 9:20 p.m.* (Ms. Cohen, 2d Ms. Altman).  
*Vote in favor unanimous. Motion passed.*  
  
Executive Session ended at 9:40 p.m.
  
  - b. Discussion and Possible Action to Extend Contract for Director of Finance and Administration to June 30, 2015  
*Motion to extend contract for Director of Finance and Administration to June 30, 2015* (Mr. Stirling, 2d Mr. Hurley).  
*Vote in favor unanimous. Motion passed.*
  
  - c. Discussion and Possible Action to Extend Contract for Superintendent to June 30, 2015  
*Motion to extend contract for Superintendent to June 30, 2015* (Ms. Cohen, 2d Ms. Altman).  
*Vote in favor unanimous. Motion passed.*
  
  - d. Discussion and Possible Action on Salary/Wage Adjustments for Non-Unionized Employees  
*Motion to recommend wage adjustments for non-unionized employees* (Ms. Crocco, 2d Ms. Cardozo).  
*Vote in favor unanimous. Motion passed.*

**15. Items for the Next Agenda**

No new items were added.

**16. Adjournment**

*Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 p.m.* (Mr. DeMaio, 2d Mr. Hurley).

*Motion passed; meeting adjourned.*

Respectfully submitted,

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Marianne Lippard, recording clerk  
Rita Gedansky, secretary

**References/Attachments:**

**Minutes:** Board of Education Regular Meeting, May 14, 2012  
Board of Education Finance Committee, May 14, 2012  
Board of Education Policy Committee, May 29, 2012

**Memos:** Jack B. Levine to John J. Brady (5/30/12) re: Resolution for Refunding Bonds  
Jack B. Levine to John J. Brady (6/5/12) re: Award of Contracts of \$35,000 or More  
Jack B. Levine to John J. Brady (6/5/12) re: Potential Uses of 2011-2012 Year End Balance  
Jack B. Levine to John J. Brady (6/4/12) re: Budget Transfers of \$3,000 or More for Fiscal Year 2011-2012  
Jack B. Levine to John J. Brady (5/25/12) re: New Funding Requests for Fiscal Year 2011-2012

**Reports:** Personnel, June 11, 2012  
Amity Regional School District No. 5 Revenues and Expenditures for FY 2011-2012  
Amity Regional School District No. 5 Budget Transfers 2011-2012

**Misc.:** Policy 5145.122(a) Use of Dogs to Search School Property  
Policy 5145.12 Search and Seizure