MINUTES

AMITY BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: William Blake, Patricia Cardozo, Diane Crocco, Steven DeMaio, Rita Gedansky, John A. Grasso, Jr., James Horwitz, Thomas Hurley, James Stirling

AMITY BOARD MEMBER ABSENT: Julie Altman, Christopher Browe, Sue Cohen, Tracey Lane Russo

Staff Members Present: John Brady, Charles Britton, Richard Dellinger, Kathleen Fuller Cutler, Kevin Keller, Jack Levine, Marianne Lippard, Mary Raiola

Also Present: Other members of the Public

A special meeting of the Amity Regional Board of Education was held on Monday, August 20, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. in the Presentation Room at the District Offices.

1. **Call to Order:** William Blake called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

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

3. **Approval of Minutes**

   a. Special BOE Goal Setting Meeting, June 7, 2012
   Motion to approve the minutes as presented (Mr. Hurley, 2d Ms. Gedansky).
   Discussion: none.
   Vote in favor: Diane Crocco, Steven DeMaio, Rita Gedansky, John A. Grasso, Jr., James Horwitz, Thomas Hurley, James Stirling
   Vote opposed: none.
   Abstain: Patricia Cardozo ***Motion passed.***

   b. Regular BOE Meeting, June 11, 2012
   Motion to approve the minutes as presented (Mr. Hurley, 2d Ms. Crocco).
   Vote in favor unanimous. ***Motion passed.***

   c. Special BOE Meeting, June 14, 2012
   Motion to approve the minutes as presented (Mr. DeMaio, 2d Mr. Hurley).
   Vote in favor: Patricia Cardozo, Diane Crocco, Steven DeMaio, Rita Gedansky, James Horwitz, Thomas Hurley, James Stirling
   Vote opposed: none.
   Abstain: John A. Grasso, Jr. ***Motion passed.***

d. Special BOE Meeting, June 18, 2012
Motion to approve the minutes as presented (Mr. DeMaio, 2d Ms. Crocco).
Vote in favor: Patricia Cardozo, Diane Crocco, Steven DeMaio, Rita Gedansky, James Horwitz, Thomas Hurley, James Stirling
Vote opposed: none.
Abstain: John A. Grasso, Jr.

4. Report on CAPT, CMT Scores and New State Measurement System

Dr. Brady said that he received the test results in July and was pleased with the outcome. The analysis will address the new state accountability platform. Dr. Brady will provide information on what the new index is. It is quite different than what the District had been used to.

Marie McPadden, the new director of Curriculum & Staff Development, presented the report on the 2012 CAPT/CMT results. She said that she is very pleased to have come to Amity. The report included a breakdown with CAPT Scores Comparison 2011-2012 by DRG showing the percentage of students at or above goal.

Mr. Hurley noted that this test appears to be harder than it was previously. Ms. McPadden said that it is the same test. She noted that the reading scores were very high. She noted that Amity would like to see more students at the advanced level. Goal is the target, rather than "proficient."

In science, fewer students were at the "advanced" level than the District saw the previous year. Writing remained high, although the number was down slightly. Ms. McPadden noted that good writing is an important skill. The District is doing well with both reading and writing.

Ms. McPadden said that the CMT scores in math were quite high; however, students getting algebra are having problems. Algebra has moved down to grade 8 with the new standards.

Mr. DeMaio questioned whether there are statistics on students who had to retake the same test.

Dr. Brady said that there are no such statistics. Students show proficiency in other ways. Amity's standard has always been "goal."

Ms. McPadden said that No Child Left Behind only required proficiency. For the next two years, the students will be judged on their performance on the CAPT and CMT. Adjustments are being made as the change is made to the Common Core Standards. When looking at the results, trends are examined. In eighth grade, for example, boys performed better in math. In seventh grade, the students are 100 percent proficient. Students at the middle school are performing very well and the students are coming to Amity from different schools.

Mr. Hurley asked whether the work with BOWA is having an impact.

Dr. Brady said that the work is absolutely making a difference.

Ms. McPadden noted that she would like to look at writing in the middle school, as the scoring was a little erratic.

Amity will continue to work to move students from "goal" to the "advanced" level and from "proficient" to "goal."

Mr. Stirling questioned what a subgroup is. Dr. Brady said that in the DRG, the range is based mostly on socioeconomic factors. He noted that there is some variability. Connecticut has a waiver for No Child Left Behind.

Ms. McPadden said that CMT and CAPT will no longer be used to calculate AYP, but will be used to determine if the District is meeting the new performance targets. The District will be implementing CCSS into the curriculum during 2012-2013. Curriculum revisions will be input into the Atlas program during 2012-2013. She also addressed highlights of the new teacher and administrator education plans. Assessments should address how to measure learning in subjects such as music.

Mr. Hurley questioned how Amity could be successful with the current staffing level.

Ms. McPadden said that the District will continue to move forward. Dr. Brady said that as a District, Amity is doing better than the standard set by the State.

5. Public Comment

None.

6. Announcements from the Board and Administration

a. Administrative Retreat

Dr. Brady said that he will be attending a seminar in September. It is important that he be present at the State retreat.

b. Teacher Only Day

Dr. Brady said that the administration would like to focus on having students develop their creativity. He is concerned that with the move to standardization, students don't lose creativity.

7. Correspondence

a. Letter from State Board of Education Regarding 2010-2011 District Annual Performance Reports and Determination
A letter from the State Board of Education, dated July 11, 2012, shows that the District "meets requirements" in the identified areas used to make the determination for 2010-2011.

8. Superintendent's Report

a. Personnel Report
Dr. Brady noted several changes to the report contained in the Board of Education packet.

b. Facilities Update
Dr. Brady said that the roofing project is in good shape and moving along. There have been minimal problems and very little noise associated with the work. The mechanisms for the shift to natural gas are in place. The work to lay the gas pipeline went very quickly.

9. Chairman's Report

a. Committee Reports
1. ACES
2. CABE
3. Curriculum
4. Facilities
5. Finance

a. Discussion and Possible Action to Use Vanguard Index Mutual Funds in Place of iShares for the Pension, Sick & Severance, and OPEB Trust
Dr. Brady noted that the proposed change to Vanguard will save about $8,000 in fees annually. This change was supported by the Finance Committee.
Move to authorize Fiduciary Investment Advisors to use Vanguard index mutual funds in place of the iShares fund for the Plan (Mr. Stirling, 2d Ms. Cardozo).
Vote in favor: Patricia Cardozo, Diane Crocco, Steven DeMaio, Rita Gedansky, James Horwitz, James Stirling
Vote opposed: none
Abstain: Thomas Hurley ***Motion passed.***

b. Discussion and Possible Action of Amity Fund Balance Policy
Dr. Brady noted that the major revision concerns money being returned to the towns. This was approved by the Amity Finance Committee.
Move to adopt the proposed Fund Balance Policy, dated May 14, 2012, as presented (Mr. Stirling, 2d Mr. Hurley).
Vote in favor unanimous. ***Motion passed.***

c. Update on Bond Refinancing and Bond Sale
It was reported that the District did very well and the timing of the refinancing and bond sale was good. The savings offsets the cost of several expensive projects. Amity managed to get a 1.58 percent interest rate. The total interest expense will be $201,964.17. For refunding bonds, the final net savings (net of all expenses) was $357,271.67, or 13.2 percent of the prior bonds. The final savings will pay for the interest expense of the new money bonds, along with some principal. Mr. Levine noted that the debt schedule has changed.

d. Discussion of Forecasts
There has been discussion between Dr. Brady, Mr. Levine and members of the Board about the value of long-term forecasts. Changes are planned to make the forecasts more accurate. Items will be examined more carefully.

Dr. Brady said that information from forecasts has been criticized and misused.

e. Presentation of Annual Report on Reserve Fund for Capital and Nonrecurring Expenditures Fund
A memo dated August 7, 2012 addresses this topic. A complete and detailed report on the condition of this fund should be submitted to the member towns annually. The report was contained within the Board of Education packet.

f. Discussion of Monthly Financial Statements
1. Fiscal Year 2011-2012
2. Fiscal Year 2012-2013

Dr. Brady noted that a Summary of Cost Savings and Efficiencies has been added to the Revenues and Expenditures report.

Mr. Hurley questioned what the current surplus is. Dr. Brady said approximately $53,000.

g. Director of Finance and Administration Approved Transfers Under $3,000
1. Fiscal Year 2011-2012
2. Fiscal Year 2012-2013

There were no questions.

h. Discussion and Possible Action on Budget Transfers
Transfer Budgets into New Account

The budget for natural gas at the high school is $132,495 (12,045 MBTU at $11 each MBTU). The number of MBTU (million British thermal units) is calculated by dividing the estimated heating oil usage of 86,000 gallons by 7.14. This is included in the adopted 2012-2013 budget under 5620-Oil Used for Heating. A budget transfer is requested to move $132,495 into a new account for natural gas expenditures. Mr. Levine noted that the District is locked into paying oil storage costs. With the new process, Amity will buy what is needed, when it is needed, and pay for it then.

Move to make the following budget transfer of $132,495 from Oil Used for Heating to the new account for Natural Gas (Mr. Hurley, 2d Ms. Gedansky).

Account Number	Account Name	From	To
03-14-2600-5620	Oil Used for Heating	$132,495	
03-14-2600-5621	Natural Gas		$132,495

Vote in favor unanimous. ***Motion passed.***

The budget for propane to heat the field house and facilities garage and provide gas to the kitchen facilities is $17,000. This is included in the adopted 2012-2013 budget under 5410-Utilities-Excluding Heat. A budget transfer is requested to move $17,000 into an account for natural gas expenditures.

Move to make the following budget transfer of $17,000 from Utilities – Excluding Heat to the new account for Natural Gas (Mr. Hurley, 2d Ms. Gedansky).

Account Number	Account Name	From	To
03-14-2600-5410	Utilities	$17,000	
03-14-2600-5621	Natural Gas		$17,000

Vote in favor unanimous. ***Motion passed.***

Due to higher than expected enrollment, additional Chinese and Spanish textbooks are needed.

Move to make the following budget transfer of $4,800 to purchase additional Chinese and Spanish textbooks for the High School World Language Department (Mr. Hurley, 2d Mr. Stirling).

Account Number	Account Name	From	To
03-14-2219-5611	Instructional Supplies	$4,800	
03-11-1006-5641	Textbooks		$4,800

Vote in favor unanimous. ***Motion passed.***

i. Update on Financial Operations
   1. Superintendent's Quarterly Report in Compliance with Board Policy 3292.1 (b), Deposit Policy for Custodial Credit Risk
      Dr. Brady reported that the Accounts Payable, Payroll Accounts, Adult Education, Cafeteria Funds and Grants Fund have been moved to Peoples United from Bank of America. In addition, new accounts were opened at Peoples United for the Self-Insured Reserve Fund and Artificial Turf Special Project Account. The other smaller accounts are with Bank of America.

      Mr. Hurley asked about the accounts left with Bank of America.

      Mr. Levine said that they are all relatively small accounts.

6. Policy
   This topic was addressed under Item 5b.

7. Personnel
   a. Executive Session – Negotiations
      Move to enter Executive Session at 8:03 p.m. (Ms. Gedansky, 2d Mr. Hurley).
      Vote in favor unanimous. ***Motion passed.***

      Executive Session concluded at 8:13 p.m.

   b. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve the Contract with the Custodial Bargaining Unit
      Motion to approve the custodial contract (Mr. DeMaio, 2d Mr. Hurley).
      Vote in favor unanimous. ***Motion passed.***

10. Items for the Next Agenda
No new items were added.

11. Adjournment
Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 p.m. (Mr. Hurley, 2d Ms. Crocco).
Motion passed; meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Marianne Lippard, recording clerk
Rita Gedansky, secretary

References/Attachments:

Minutes: Special Board of Education, June 7, 2012
Regular Meeting, June 11, 2012
Special Board of Education, June 14, 2012
Special Board of Education, June 18, 2012

Reports: 2012 CAPT/CMT Results
Personnel Report, 8/20/12
Reserve Fund for Capital and Nonrecurring Expenditures for FY Ending 6/30/12
Amity Regional School District No. 5 Revenues and Expenditures for FY 2011-2012
Amity Regional School District No. 5 Revenues and Expenditures for FY 2012-2013
Amity Regional School District No. 5 Budget Transfers

Memos: Stefan Pryor to Superintendent of Schools (7/11/12) re: 2010-11 District Annual Performance Reports and Determinations
Jack B. Levine to John J. Brady (5/25/12) re: Fiduciary Investment Advisors Recommendation
Jack B. Levine to John J. Brady (5/25/12) re: Proposed Fund Balance Policy
Jack B. Levine to John J. Brady (5/25/12) re: Forecasts
Jack B. Levine to John J. Brady (8/7/12) re: Reserve Fund for Capital and Nonrecurring Expenditures
Jack B. Levine to John J. Brady (8/13/12) re: Budget Transfers of $3,000 or More