

## MINUTES

**AMITY BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** William Blake, Patricia Cardozo, Diane Crocco, Steven DeMaio, Rita Gedansky, Thomas Hurley, James Horwitz, James Stirling

**AMITY BOARD MEMBER ABSENT:** Julie Altman, Christopher Browe, Sue Cohen, John A. Grasso, Jr., Tracey Lane Russo

**Staff Members Present:** John Brady, Charles Britton, Jack Levine, Marianne Lippard, Marie McPadden, Terry Lumas

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A special meeting of the Amity Regional Board of Education was held on Tuesday, December 18, 2012, at 6:30 p.m. in the Superintendent's Conference Room at the District Offices.

- 1. Call to Order:** William Blake called the meeting to order at 6:39 p.m.
- 2. Discussion and Possible Action to Purchase PowerSchool Student Information Systems**

Dr. Brady shared a memo that had been presented to the Curriculum Committee. The administration has been looking at the student management system. The District currently uses iPass and the system has many flaws, making it difficult to work with. There is little support for the system and everything has to be customized. The system is not intuitive. There are only two other users of this system in the state. Everyone from teachers to secretaries to administrators has had trouble working with it. At the time that iPass was purchased, Amity looked at PowerSchool and rejected it due to cost. Dr. Brady said that we got what we paid for with iPass.

A subcommittee has been looking into what system would work for Amity. There is very little out there and PowerSchool is used by 108 districts in the state. The second largest system is used by 39 districts in the state. The subcommittee would like to get PowerSchool.

The Curriculum Committee agreed to the idea of getting PowerSchool for Amity. The District can get a discount of \$18,000 if we make the commitment by Thursday, December 21, 2012. Dr. Brady said that the Curriculum Committee recommended buying the system outright. Money from the Contingency fund can be used, giving the opportunity for immediate training. This training would be very valuable. Dr. Brady said they the administration would like to take advantage of this deadline and the opportunity to save \$18,000. The cost per year for PowerSchool is \$20,000. iPass costs \$16,000 per year.

Ms. McPadden said that the training is very intensive. We have talked to others in the state that are using the system and they are very happy with it.

Dr. Brady said that PowerSchool is particularly helpful if a student changes from one class to another. Teachers can use the history in order to properly adjust grades.

Mr. Levine said that the training is extensive and is part of the price. The company has the experience to train users well. We have factored in the cost of all the necessary training. The system is also intuitive. He noted that the Curriculum Committee meeting challenged him to get the price down even lower and he didn't think he could move another inch, but managed to get the price down a bit further. He said that if he can get approval, he'll try for a millimeter.

Mr. Horwitz said that he would suggest attempting to get more in the way of training. Support will make the difference between success and failure with a new system.

Mr. Stirling said that he is concerned about taking money from the Contingency account.

Mr. Levine said that the company is willing to make the deal to meet their sales target goals.

Mr. Stirling said that the use of funds from the Contingency account usually needs review by the Finance Committee.

Dr. Brady said that this need represents the perfect use for the Contingency account.

Mr. Stirling said that he would prefer to get the opinion of the Finance Committee. He is concerned that moving forward without their advice may be penny wise and pound foolish.

Dr. Brady said that the members could be called.

Mr. Horwitz questioned whether this could be approved subject to approval by the Finance Committee.

Mr. Levine said that deal is over after December 21, 2012.

Dr. Brady said that this agenda was sent out to everyone, including members of the Finance Committee, and members of the committee could have come tonight if there was concern. There were no calls from members either.

Mr. Horwitz asked for information on the savings once again.

Mr. Levine said that the savings at this point is \$18,114.

Mr. Blake said that the suggested wording in the motion doesn't say where the source is from. He would like it to come from the Contingency account.

Mr. Levine noted that this would have to be paid in January. There are some concerns that with so few users, iPass would be abandoned and Amity would have real problems with the current system.

*Move that the Superintendent of Schools is authorized to sign a contract and issue a purchase order to Pearson School Systems of Rancho Cordova, California, to pay for PowerSchool software and related support and services for \$64,560.44, payable in January 2013. Further, the Board's Policy on bidding is waived (Ms. Cardozo, 2d Mr. DeMaio).*

*Vote in favor:* William Blake, Patricia Cardozo, Diane Crocco, Steven DeMaio, Rita Gedansky, Thomas Hurley, James Horwitz

*Vote opposed:* James Stirling

***Motion passed.***

**3. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Marianne Lippard, recording clerk  
Rita Gedansky, secretary