

MINUTES

AMITY BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Julie Altman, William Blake, Christopher Browe, Patricia Cardozo, Sue Cohen, Diane Crocco, Steven DeMaio, Rita Gedansky, John A. Grasso, Jr., James Horwitz, Tracey Lane Russo, James Stirling

AMITY BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Thomas Hurley

Staff Members Present: John Brady, Charles Britton, Richard Dellinger, Kathleen Fuller Cutler, Jack Levine, Marianne Lippard, Marie McPadden, Mary Raiola, Jim Saisa

Also Present: Patrick Dudley, Thomas Falcigno, Bonnie Oneill, Denise Rock; other members of the Public

A regular meeting of the Amity Regional Board of Education was held on Monday, June 10, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. in the Presentation Room of the District Offices.

1. **Call to Order:** William Blake called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance** was recited by those present.

Motion to move Public Comment up on the agenda to allow the public to speak during the presentation of Awards of Excellence (Mr. Browe, 2d Mr. Horwitz)
Vote in favor unanimous. Motion passed.

3. **Presentation of Awards of Excellence**

Bonnie Oneill said that she came tonight to talk about Band Director Phil Dolan. She came tonight, along with other parents, to recognize all that Mr. Dolan does for the students at Amity. He is very involved with Music in Motion and the band supports chorus and drama, marches in parades, and performs at football games. He gives innumerable hours of his time and there is no way that anyone can pay him enough for all that he does. She presented Mr. Dolan with a plaque and the parents are also purchasing a seat in the auditorium for him as well.

Dr. Brady noted that Mr. Dolan was recognized as the Orchestra Director of the Year for the second time, so he is known in the State as well.

Denise Rock of Woodbridge said that the orchestra did a wonderful job last week. Mr. Dolan helped the students pull off a performance for Sweeney Todd that she believes a professional orchestra couldn't do better.

Trish said that the students did a wonderful job with the Pops Concert and they had a great time too. Her son played the piano and really learned by Mr. Dolan's

leadership. The kids have good role models here. Mr. Dolan is an inspiration to the kids and parents.

Ms. Schwartz said that her daughter is a junior and she saw firsthand the hours that Mr. Dolan puts in here. He does an excellent job.

4. Approval of Minutes

a. Regular BOE Meeting, May 13, 2013

Motion to approve the minutes as presented (Ms. Gedansky, 2d Ms. Cardozo).

Vote in favor unanimous.

Motion passed.

b. Public Hearing, May 21, 2013

Motion to approve the minutes as presented (Mr. Stirling, 2d Mr. DeMaio).

Vote in favor: Christopher Browe, Sue Cohen, Diane Crocco, Steven DeMaio, Rita Gedansky, John A. Grasso, Jr., James Stirling

Vote opposed: none

Abstain: Julie Altman, William Blake, Patricia Cardozo, James Horwitz,

Tracey Lane Russo

Motion passed.

c. Special BOE Meeting, May 21, 2013

Motion to approve the minutes as presented (Mr. Stirling, 2d Ms. Cardozo).

Vote in favor: Christopher Browe, Patricia Cardozo, Sue Cohen, Diane Crocco, Steven DeMaio, Rita Gedansky, John A. Grasso, Jr., James Stirling

Vote opposed: none

Abstain: Julie Altman, William Blake, James Horwitz, Tracey Lane Russo

Motion passed.

5. Student Report

Thomas Falcigno reported that the boys' baseball team defeated Southington to capture the Class LL Championship. The High School's production of Sweeney Todd was a huge success and was nominated for awards in 15 categories at the Connecticut High School Musical Theater Awards, including Outstanding Production of the Year. The annual Pops Concert was a great show and Thomas thanked all who have come out to events to support the High School. More entertainment will be showcased at the High School on Thursday, June 13th, when a variety of entertaining films will be shown. The Embers yearbook has been distributed. Yearbooks are still available for purchase for those interested. Seventy pints of blood were collected during the Spring Blood Drive. Thomas wished Dr. Brady the best in his retirement. Amity has been fortunate to have one of the best superintendents in the State and the nation. In a little bit less than 10 years with the District, Dr. Brady brought to the District a clear vision with a focus on academics, arts and athletics. Thomas added that besides getting to know Dr. Brady through his involvement with this Board, he has had the pleasure of getting to know Dr. Brady as the advisor to the Model United Nations. Thomas introduced Patrick Dudley, the new Student Representative to the Board. Thomas thanked the Board for allowing him to serve in this role for the last two years.

It was noted that a local magazine featured an article about Sweeney Todd as well.

Mr. Blake thanked Thomas for his work and wished him luck at George Washington University.

6. Principal's Reports

High School Campus –
Bethany Middle School Campus –
Orange Middle School Campus –

Dr. Brady said that there will be no Principal's Reports at tonight's meeting. The information is covered in the Friday highlights.

7. Public Comment

Darren Lu of Orange said that he came tonight to speak on behalf of himself and parent Christie Jones. His daughter goes to ECA and the parents of ECA students were told that Odysseyware could be used for credit. The parents were later told that Odysseyware wasn't approved. He questioned why the decision took so long to make. Odysseyware was approved for credit recovery, so the parents are questioning why it isn't approved for ECA students. He questioned how it was approved and what the appeal process is. He also asked who serves on the academic standards committee and how frequently they meet. The parents want to know how decisions are made. The parents also were informed of an Indiana University program that may be accepted. The parents would like to see something in writing confirming whether or not the Indiana University program will be approved.

Mr. Horwitz questioned the timing for the resolution of this. These parents want to get curriculum issues resolved before the start of the school year and they are frustrated. This issue came up in March and it needs to be resolved.

Dr. Brady said that he doesn't have an answer tonight. The Counseling Department is working on this.

Ms. Russo said that this issue needs to be resolved. Parents are coming to these meetings consistently now. Since we offer the ECA program, we need to offer the support necessary. She thought this issue was already taken care of.

Mr. Blake noted that this topic should have been on the agenda so that the administration was prepared to respond tonight. This issue needs to go through the proper channels and the administration should be informed first. The Board has no knowledge of these latest developments and can't make an informed decision. There is a complaint procedure. He isn't sure if that process was pursued here.

Mr. Browe said that this issue appeared to have been dealt with. A guideline or book was to be distributed.

Dr. Britton said that the book will be ready for students for September.

Dr. Brady said that the handbook is being developed for next year's eighth graders.

8. Announcements from the Board and Administration

Dr. Brady noted that Thomas covered all of his planned announcements in his Student Report (Item #5).

9. Correspondence

a. Letter from State of Connecticut Department of Education Regarding Favorable Results of Bureau of Special Education File Review Process

The District was selected for participation in the CSDE Bureau of Data Collection, Research and Evaluation Special Education Data Application and Collection (SEDAC) Desk Audit. Within the scope of the Bureau of Special Education file review process, Amity demonstrated full compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA). Dr. Brady said that he was pleased to get this report, as not every district receives a letter showing full compliance. He thanked Mary Raiola and the staff.

10. Superintendent's Report

a. Personnel Report

The report was included with the information packet for tonight's meeting. Dr. Brady noted that there is an opening for an art teacher at the High School. A digital video instructor is needed. Rocco Palmieri, district technology coordinator, is also retiring. Teacher Brian Flinn is leaving to go to Central Connecticut State University.

b. Awarding of Honorary Diploma

The District was contacted by a woman whose husband would have received his high school diploma, but withdrew in order to serve in the Vietnam War. We would like to award him an honorary diploma. He now lives in Texas.

11. Chairman's Report

Mr. Blake acknowledged Dr. Brady's retirement, noting that it has been a pleasure working with Dr. Brady, who has done so much to move the District forward.

a. Committee Reports

1. ACES – There was no report.
2. CABE – Mr. Stirling said that there is a meeting tomorrow from 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. to discuss the close of the legislative session. A seat has been reserved, but he is unable to go. If anyone can go, please

see him after the meeting. Ms. Cohen questioned how the District will be affected by some recent developments with new legislation. Dr. Brady said that he hasn't received updates or bulletins recently that address this.

3. Curriculum – There was no report.
4. Facilities – There was no report.
5. Finance
 - a. Discussion and Possible Action on Award of Contracts Over \$35,000

Site-Based Grounds Maintenance Program:

There were two companies at the mandatory pre-bid meeting; however, only one company submitted a written proposal. Facilities Director Jim Saisa recommends the bid be awarded to Sports Turf of Connecticut of Orange for the bid price of \$215,000 for the fiscal year 2013-2014 with two option years at the Board's sole discretion. If the taxpayers approve the bonding for an artificial turf field, the bid proposal is \$208,800. The contractor will be responsible to provide equipment and perform all required manufacturer's maintenance.

The bid specifications include mowing the grass, turf fertilization and weed control, pruning, watering, insect and disease control, policing of all grounds at Middle Schools and High School and Athletic Field Complex at the High School, Integrated Pest Management program for insect and weed control, maintain curbs and cracks in asphalt and concrete sidewalks weed free, spring cleanup of winter debris, continuous clean-up of leaves, spot seeding of all turf areas as necessary, rolling and dragging of three infields as necessary, maintenance of three infields – includes any necessary clay, hand weed groundcover and planting beds to keep a weed-free appearance, covering existing mulched beds with shredded hardwood mulch, supply and install perennial flowers in the existing flower bed, ensure the daily operation of the irrigation system as well as winterizing it in the fall and reenergizing and flushing the irrigation system in the spring, and so forth.

Dr. Brady said that there was only bidder for the grounds maintenance program. The price would decline slightly if the taxpayers approve the bonding for an artificial turf field.

Move to award the site-based grounds maintenance program for July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014 to Sports Turf of Connecticut of Orange at the bid price of \$215,000 for the first year of a three-year contract. If an artificial turf field is installed, the contract price will be \$208,800. The bid price will be held for

*all three years. The Board reserves the right to cancel the contract if Sports Turf of Connecticut of Orange fails to perform in a satisfactory manner (Mr. Stirling, 2d Ms. Cohen).
Vote in favor unanimous. Motion passed.*

Snow Removal, Ice Control & Sanding Services:

There were six companies at the mandatory pre-bid meeting. Four companies submitted written proposals. Mr. Saisa recommends the Board award the bid to Denny Landscaping Ltd of Orange. Denny Landscaping Ltd was the low bidder on all the line items of snow removal and sanding. Furthermore, the company offered free parking lot sweeping each year and a complete line painting once if given a three-year contract. The bid prices are based on the amount of snow (e.g. 1 to 6 inches of snow at \$600; 6 inches to 9 inches of snow at \$700; 9 inches and up of snow at \$825). The prices will be held for all three years.

Move to award the snow removal, ice control and sanding services to Denny Landscaping Ltd of Orange for July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014 for the first year of a three-year contract at the bid prices based on the amount of snow. The Board reserves the right to cancel the contract if Denny Landscaping Ltd of Orange fails to perform in a satisfactory manner (Ms. Crocco, 2d Ms. Gedansky).

Discussion: Ms. Russo said that she sees a lot of these types of contracts. She is concerned that when selecting the low bidder sometimes there are additional costs added on. She reached out to some local contractors personally to gather information and has concerns.

Mr. Stirling said that the Amity Finance Committee voted unanimously in favor of this contract. Additional services were added in to make this contract more advantageous for the District.

Vote in favor: Julie Altman, Patricia Cardozo, Sue Cohen, Diane Crocco, Steven DeMaio, Rita Gedansky, John A. Grasso, Jr., James Horwitz, James Stirling

Vote opposed: none

Abstain: Christopher Browe, Tracey Lane Russo

Vote in favor unanimous.

Motion passed.

Asphalt Repairs:

Three companies submitted bids. YB Paving of Seymour was the low bidder at \$2.75 per square yard; however, the asphalt work they did in the past has already crumbled and is in need of replacement. P&S Paving, Inc. of Seymour and R.P. Dalton, Inc. of Waterbury were tied at \$3.00 per square foot. Mr. Saisa recommends the Board award the contract to P&S Paving, Inc. of Seymour at \$3.00 per square foot. We have had great success with the asphalt work P&S Paving, Inc. has done in the past.

Move to award asphalt repairs, as needed by the District, to P&S Paving, Inc. of Seymour for July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014 at the bid price of \$3.00 per square foot. The Board reserves the right to cancel the contract if P&S Paving, Inc. fails to perform in a satisfactory manner (Mr. DeMaio, 2d Ms. Crocco).

Vote in favor unanimous.

Motion passed.

The District has been using Kelly Educational Services for many years. There are no other similar services. Therefore, we are asking the Board to award the contract based on a sole source vendor. Last fiscal year, the District paid Kelly Education Services \$61,483.66. As of May 31, 2013, the total paid is \$58,537.23.

Move to award the substitute teacher service to Kelly Educational Services for July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014. The price will be negotiated by the Director of Finance and Administration. The Board reserves the right to cancel the contract if Kelly Educational Services fails to perform in a satisfactory manner (Mr. Stirling, 2d Mr. Browe).

Discussion: Mr. Stirling noted that the Amity Finance Committee voted in favor of this contract. There was discussion about using Kelly Educational Services sparingly and as a last resort.

Vote in favor unanimous.

Motion passed.

- b. Discussion of Monthly Financial Statements
There were no questions.
- c. Director of Finance and Administration Approved Transfers Under \$3,000
There were no questions.
- d. Discussion and Possible Action on Budget Transfers of \$3,000 or More
If yearend funds are available, the Superintendent of Schools would like to install a netting system for the softball and

baseball fields at Amity High School. This is to prevent foul balls from leaving the fields and hitting houses or cars. Two companies submitted bids. The lowest bid for the softball field was the Frankson Fence Company of North Haven for \$5,823 and the lowest bid for the baseball field was the Frankson Fence Company of North Haven for \$24,462. The Frankson Fence Company offered a 5 percent discount if both jobs are awarded to them. Mr. Saisa recommends the Board award the project to the Frankson Fence Company. This company has done great work for Amity in the past.

Dr. Brady noted that the Amity Finance supported this expenditure. He added that all budget transfer motions will be contingent on funds being available at the end of the fiscal year. The administration has developed a list of priorities, they are: 1) lockers 2) cameras 3) graduate study 4) netting.

Move to make the following budget transfer to pay the Frankson Fence Company of North Haven for the installation of a netting system for the softball and baseball fields at Amity High School (Mr. Stirling, 2d Mr. Horwitz).

Discussion: Ms. Russo questioned whether there were any claims. Dr. Brady said that there haven't been many claims, there are signs, but people ignore them. Mr. Browe asked if pedestrians have been hit. Dr. Brady said no, but there have been broken windows. It was noted that the netting can be taken down in the off-season. Mr. Browe said that the netting isn't guaranteed to stop all balls. Dr. Brady said that it would stop 80 percent. Mr. Grasso previously pointed out that each ball that is lost costs about \$6.75 to purchase.

Vote in favor: Julie Altman, Patricia Cardozo, Sue Cohen, Diane Crocco, Steven DeMaio, Rita Gedansky, John A. Grasso, Jr., James Horwitz, Tracey Lane Russo, James Stirling

Vote opposed: Christopher Browe

Abstain: none.

Motion passed.

Potential Yearend Expenditures:

If funds are available, the Superintendent would like to do as many of the following projects as possible:

Graduate Study: An important source of information concerning the effectiveness of our high school curriculum is our recent alumni members. A study of this nature would obtain important and meaningful input from recent graduates. The specific emphasis is on how specific high school offerings

helped or hindered graduates in succeeding in college or the work force. Cost is \$15,000.

Dr. Brady said that a company would be hired to survey recent graduates to find out their opinions about their experience at Amity.

Additional Cameras for Amity High School: Phase one (elevator area) will cost \$3,950; phase two (math wing and art hallway) will cost \$5,400; phase three (library/media center and science wing) will cost \$10,900; phase four (cameras on the field house) will cost \$2,690.

Dr. Brady said that the administration has found the cameras installed at the High School to be very effective. Still, there are areas where cameras are needed to better monitor the school, including the math wing, art hallway and elevator.

Additional lockers at Bethany Middle School: Dr. Dellinger would like to add 20 lockers due to student growth. The cost is approximately \$4,800 installed.

We are in the process of applying for the State of Connecticut Security Competitive Grant Program. The District may get a partial reimbursement of about 28 percent on our security initiatives.

Finally, there are problems with how some lockers are situated at Amity Middle School in Bethany. There are supervision concerns.

Move to make the necessary budget transfers to pay for a graduate study, additional cameras for Amity High School, and additional lockers at Bethany Middle School provided sufficient funds are available. The Director of Finance and Administration will identify those accounts from which funds can be transferred (Ms. Crocco, Mr. Stirling).

Discussion:

Mr. Stirling said that while most of our graduates go on to pursue a college degree, it would be helpful when a study is done to seek out students who did not go on to two or four-year colleges to find out how to best help them.

Mr. Browe questioned why it has been 16 years since the last study was done.

Dr. Brady said that the cost prevented the District from pursuing a study sooner.

Mr. Browe questioned whether it would be a good use of funds given all of the changes that are taking place in education.

Dr. Brady said that he would like to see this done now. He feels this type of study should be done every few years. Valuable information would be provided.

Vote in favor unanimous.

Motion passed.

Ms. Cohen said that she is concerned that the District isn't getting policy service from CAFE. She is worried about the District being out of touch with the transition. Ms. Cohen asked that this topic be put on the agenda for the next meeting. If funds are available, she would like to get policy update information from CAFE.

Dr. Brady noted that the District is currently getting basic service.

Mr. Blake said that the next agenda will be for a meeting in the next financial year. Mr. Blake said that a motion can be made to consider adding CAFE policy services.

Move to add consideration of CAFE policy services to the agenda (Mr. Russo, 2d Mr. DeMaio).

Vote in favor unanimous.

Motion passed.

Motion to set aside money for CAFE policy services if funds are available (Ms. Cohen, 2d Ms. Crocco).

Move to amend the motion to incur the expense as part of the budget for 2013-2014 (Ms. Russo, 2d Ms. Crocco).

Vote in favor: Julie Altman, Patricia Cardozo, Sue Cohen, Diane Crocco, Steven DeMaio, Rita Gedansky, John A.

Grasso, Jr., James Horwitz, Tracey Lane Russo, James Stirling

Vote opposed: none

Abstain: Christopher Browe

Motion passed.

6. Policy – There was no report.
7. Personnel – There was no report.

12. Personnel – Executive Session

Motion to enter Executive Session at 7:40 p.m. (Ms. Gedansky, 2d Mr. DeMaio).

The Board returned from Executive Session at 7:48 p.m.

13. Discussion and Possible Action on Salary/Wage Adjustments for Non-Unionized Employees

Motion to approve wage adjustments for non-unionized employees (Mr. Browe, 2d Ms. Cohen).

Vote in favor unanimous.

Motion passed.

14. Discussion and Possible Action on Extension of Director of Finance and Administration's Contract Through June 30, 2016

Motion to approve the contract for Jack Levine, Director of Finance and Administration through June 30, 2016 (Mr. Browe, 2d Mr. Grasso).

Vote in favor unanimous.

Motion passed.

Mr. Blake said that the Board looks forward to continuing to work with Mr. Levine.

15. Items for the Next Agenda

There are no scheduled meetings in July. Mr. Blake noted that Board members can send him requests for items to go onto the next agenda.

Ms. Russo said that she would like clarification about how to respond to questions raised during Public Comment. Dr. Brady said that ECA can be put onto the agenda for the next meeting. Dr. Britton and the person serving as superintendent, as well as the head of the guidance department, should be in attendance at the meeting. Lisa Connelly, who works with the students, should also be invited.

16. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 p.m. (Mr. Stirling, 2d Mr. DeMaio).

Motion passed; meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marianne Lippard, recording clerk
Rita Gedansky, secretary

References/Attachments:

Minutes:

Board of Education Regular Meeting, 5/13/13
Amity Regional School District No. 5 Public Hearing, 5/21/13
Amity Regional School District No. 5 Special Meeting, 5/21/13
Amity Finance Committee, 5/13/13

Reports:

Personnel Report, 5/13/13
Amity Regional School District No. 5 Revenues and Expenditures
for FY 2012-2013
Amity Regional School District No. 5 – Budget Transfers 2012-
2013
Amity Regional School District No. 5 Year-to-Date Budget
Report, 6/5/13

Memos:

Jack B. Levine to John J. Brady (5/31/13) re: Award of Contracts
of \$35,000 or More
Jack B. Levine to John J. Brady (6/3/13) re: Budget Transfers of
\$3,000 or More

Correspondence:

State Department of Education to Mary Raiola (5/29/13) re:
Participation in CSDE Special Education Data Application and
Collection (SEDAC) Desk Audit