

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairperson Tom Hurley, Mr. John Belfonti, Ms. Robyn Berke, Mr. Christopher Browe, Ms. Shannan Carlson, Ms. Patricia Cardozo, Ms. Paula Cofrancesco, Ms. Sue Cohen, Mr. Steven DeMaio, Ms. Amy Esposito, Ms. Sheila McCreven, and Ms. Jennifer Turner

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Ms. Diane Urbano

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Charles Dumais, Dr. E. Marie McPadden, Dr. Richard Dellinger, Ms. Theresa Lumas, Mr. Scott Cleary, Ms. Kathy Burke, Mr. Peter Downhour, Mr. Ernie Goodwin, Ms. Lisa Lassen, Ms. Anna Mahon, and Ms. Mary Raiola.

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Mike Goss.

A regular meeting of the Amity Regional Board of Education (BOE) was held on Monday, September 11, 2017 at 6:30 pm in the Presentation Room at the District Offices.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chairperson Tom Hurley called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** recited by those present
3. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None
4. **INFORMATION ON SECOND QUARTER 2017 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY REVIEW OF AMITY PENSION FUND, SICK AND SEVERANCE ACCOUNT, AND OPEB TRUST** (enclosure)

Ms. Lumas introduced Mr. Mike Goss to present the report and to make a recommendation for possible action by the Board. Mr. Goss reviewed the summary with the Board and highlighted some of the market changes. He answered questions from the Board regarding the summary. Mr. Goss then went over the recommendation being made on page 76 of the summary, which is to incorporate a level of active management within the Fixed Income Allocation tier for both the Pension Fund and the OPEB Trust Fund. This is a more flexible strategy, which is recommended for half of the assets. Mr. Goss answered questions from the Board regarding this recommendation. The Board discussed the recommended action. Mr. Belfonti advised that the Finance Committee endorse this recommendation unanimously and noted that at one point in the past assets had been managed in this way.

Motion by Mr. Belfonti, 2nd by Ms. Cofrancesco, to authorize Fiduciary Investment Advisors to split the Fixed Income Allocation tier to a 50% active manager and 50% indexed for the Pension Plan and the OPEB Trust Fund. BlackRock Strategic Income Opportunities K is recommended for the active manager, and Vanguard index mutual funds will remain at a lower proportion.

Vote in favor, 11-0, (Mr. Belfonti, Ms. Berke, Mr. Browe, Ms. Carlson, Ms. Cardozo, Ms. Cofrancesco, Ms. Cohen, Mr. DeMaio, Ms. Esposito, Ms. McCreven and Ms. Turner) **Motion carried**

Motion by Ms. McCreven, 2nd by Mr. Browe, to add an item to the agenda (making it item #5) to retake the vote for Chairperson from the previous meeting.

Vote in favor, 11-0, (Mr. Belfonti, Ms. Berke, Mr. Browe, Ms. Carlson, Ms. Cardozo, Ms. Cofrancesco, Ms. Cohen, Mr. DeMaio, Ms. Esposito, Ms. McCreven and Ms. Turner) Motion carried

5. RETAKE VOTE FOR CHAIRPERSON OF THE AMITY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Dr. Dumais called for nominations from the floor.

Motion by Mr. Browe, 2nd by Ms. Berke, to nominate Mr. Thomas Hurley for Chairperson.

Hearing no other nominations, Dr. Dumais closed nominations and called for a vote.

Vote in favor, 11-0, (Mr. Belfonti, Ms. Berke, Mr. Browe, Ms. Carlson, Ms. Cardozo, Ms. Cofrancesco, Ms. Cohen, Mr. DeMaio, Ms. Esposito, Ms. McCreven, and Ms. Turner) Motion carried

Motion by Mr. Browe, 2nd by Ms. Cardozo, to move the Student Report up to item #6 on the agenda.

Vote in favor, 11-0, (Mr. Belfonti, Ms. Berke, Mr. Browe, Ms. Carlson, Ms. Cardozo, Ms. Cofrancesco, Ms. Cohen, Mr. DeMaio, Ms. Esposito, Ms. McCreven, and Ms. Turner) Motion carried

6. STUDENT REPORT – Ananya Kachru

Ms. Kachru presented her report on events at Amity High School, Amity Middle School Bethany, and Amity Middle School Orange that took place over the past first month of school, as well as informing the Board of upcoming events. She also handed out wrist bands to the Board members with the motto for the year, “Go The Distance,” on them.

7. STATE-REQUIRED REPORTING OF TEACHER RATINGS

Dr. McPadden reported that 140 teachers in the district received an “exemplary” rating, and 96 teachers received an “accomplished” rating. There were no teachers that received one of the lower two ratings (developing and below standard) out of four. Ratings for administrators were also “exemplary.” Dr. McPadden noted that both the rating plans are in the process of being revised.

8. DISTRICT STATE TESTING RESULTS 2016-2017

Mr. Browe introduced Dr. McPadden to present her report as it was given to the Curriculum Committee at their most recent meeting. Dr. McPadden shared the test results via her presentation for the four different assessments given yearly. Dr. McPadden, Ms. Mahon, and Dr. Dumais answered questions from the Board regarding the tests themselves, the length of the tests, when they are administered, and the results.

9. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON CABE MEETING (enclosure)

Ms. McCreven spoke to the Board regarding the possible use of CABA-Meeting software. Dr. Dumais reported that he spoke with the Superintendent of Woodbridge. The Woodbridge Board of Education and Superintendent use this program. The Superintendent of Woodbridge said that the set-up and front-end load is a bit intensive and might require some training for Board members; however, they (the Woodbridge Board of Education and Superintendent) feel that it is a big timesaver. Discussion followed regarding the cost of this, necessity versus need, and how this would enhance or improve the workflow for the Board of Education.

Motion by Ms. McCreven to purchase this system and begin to enter information from this point forward; backloading of information will be discussed at a later date.

There was no second to the motion.

Discussion took place regarding this system. Ms. McCreven agreed to get further information on costs and report back to the Board of Education at the October meeting.

10. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Regular Board of Education meeting, August 14, 2017 (enclosure)

Motion by Ms. Cohen, 2nd by Ms. Cofrancesco to accept the minutes as submitted.

Corrections were made as follows:

- page 94 of packet, item #12, change "Chairman of the Finance Committee" to "Chairman of the Board of Finance"
- page 94 of packet, item #14.A.II, change "CABA send a letter" to "CABA sent a letter"
- page 96 of packet, item #14.V.3, vote on the audited fund balance motion, add Ms. Cofrancesco's name to those voting in favor of the motion and change "Vote in favor, 5" to "Vote in favor, 6."
- page 95 of packet, item #14.V.3, motion regarding audited fund balance, remove the word "net" from the initial motion.

Chairperson Hurley called for a vote to accept the minutes as corrected.

Vote in favor, 10, (Mr. Belfonti, Ms. Berke, Mr. Browe, Ms. Carlson, Ms. Cardozo, Ms. Cofrancesco, Ms. Cohen, Mr. DeMaio, Ms. McCreven and Ms. Turner)

Abstain, 1, (Ms. Esposito)

Motion carried

B. Special Board of Education meeting, September 05, 2017 (enclosure)

Motion by Ms. Cofrancesco, 2nd by Mr. Belfonti, to accept the minutes as submitted.

Correction as follows:

- page 98 of packet item #2, motion to correct the title, change "correct the title of Direction of Finance and Administration" to "correct the title of the Director of Finance and Administration..."

Chairperson Hurley called for a vote to accept the minutes as corrected.

Vote in favor, 11-0, (Mr. Belfonti, Ms. Berke, Mr. Browe, Ms. Carlson, Ms. Cardozo, Ms. Cofrancesco, Ms. Cohen, Mr. DeMaio, Ms. Esposito, Ms. McCreven and Ms. Turner) Motion carried

11. Superintendent's Report

- A. **Personnel Report** (enclosure)
- B. **Superintendent's Report** (enclosure)

Dr. Dumais highlighted items from these two reports, which are enclosed in the packet. He particularly mentioned that Mr. Kevin Berean, Technical Education teacher at Amity Middle School Bethany, is a semi-finalist for Connecticut Teacher of the Year.

12. Chairman's Report

A. Committee Reports

1. ACES

Ms. Cohen reported that ACES has not met since the last Board of Education meeting, but they will be meeting this Thursday, September 14th. Chairperson Hurley requested that a Board of Education member shadow Ms. Cohen at the upcoming CABE meetings, and Ms. Berke volunteered to do so.

2. CABE

Ms. McCreven stated that registration is open for the CABE conference, which takes place in November. There is a delegate assembly meeting the day before the convention begins, and Ms. McCreven stated that she would once again be willing to be a delegate from Amity. Items for delegate discussion could be added to the Amity BOE agenda in October.

3. Curriculum

- a. **Draft Curriculum Meeting, September 06, 2017 minutes** (enclosure)

Mr. Browe stated that the Curriculum Committee met on September 6th and saw the test result presentation from Dr. McPadden.

4. Facilities

- a. **Facilities Department monthly report, August, 2017** (enclosure)

Ms. Cardozo stated that the Facilities Committee will meet tomorrow evening, Tuesday, September 12th.

5. Finance

Mr. Belfonti reported on the discussion held during the Finance Committee earlier this evening.

- a. **Discussion of monthly financial statements (enclosure)**
- b. **Director of Finance and Administration approved transfers under \$3,000 (enclosure)**
- c. **Discussion of Bylaw 9132.6 (enclosure)**

There was discussion regarding a possible addition or modification to the questions posed to the CABA attorney and the Board of Education attorney regarding this bylaw at the Special Board of Education meeting on September 5th. Dr. Dumais stated that he anticipates having a response from both attorneys by Friday, September 15th.

d. **Other**

1. **Discussion and possible action on pension amendment (enclosure)**

Ms. Lumas explained the proposed amendment to the Amity Pension Plan, as outlined in her memo in the packet.

Motion by Ms. Cohen, 2nd by Ms. Esposito, to modify the Amity Regional High School District No. 5 Pension Plan with the proposed amendment and authorize the Superintendent of Schools to sign the amendment document.

Discussion and questions followed, which were answered by Ms. Lumas.

Vote in favor, 11-0, (Mr. Belfonti, Ms. Berke, Mr. Browe, Ms. Carlson, Ms. Cardozo, Ms. Cofrancesco, Ms. Cohen, Mr. DeMaio, Ms. Esposito, Ms. McCreven and Ms. Turner) **Motion carried**

2. **Update on Financial Audit (enclosure)**
3. **Discussion of zero-based budgeting**

Mr. Belfonti stated that the consensus of the Amity Finance Committee at their meeting earlier this evening regarding zero-based budgeting was that this was unnecessary. The Amity Finance Committee felt that there is ongoing oversight looking for cost savings and that zero-based budgeting could become contentious and very labor-intensive. Mr. Belfonti reported that the members of the Amity Finance Committee from the three member towns were very pleased with the current process and saw no need to change it. There was discussion, and questions about the current budget development process versus zero-based budgeting were answered by Ms. Lumas.

6. Policy

- a. **Draft Policy Meeting August 21, 2017 Minutes (enclosure)**
- b. **First reading of the following:**
 1. **Strike**

- a. **1112.5 – Media Access to Students (enclosure)**
- b. **1120 – Public Participation of Board of Education Meetings (enclosure)**

Chairperson Hurley stated that these policies were found to be redundant and were recommended to be struck. Discussion and questions followed.

2. Adopt

- a. **1112 – News Media Relationships (Public, Press, Radio and TV) (enclosure)**
- b. **1114 – District-Sponsored Media (enclosure)**
- c. **1140 – Distribution of Materials by Students (enclosure)**
- d. **9132.6 – Amity Finance Committee (enclosure)**

Chairperson Hurley apprised the Board of the updates to language in these policies. Discussion followed. Chairperson Hurley advised Board members to attend the next Policy Committee Meeting on September 18th or to send any concerns and comments to him via email before the meeting in the absence of the Policy Committee Co-Chairperson, Ms. Urbano. Mr. Hurley advised the Board of the two changes to language in policy 9132.6, specifically making uniform the title of the Director of Finance and Administration in the entire document and the language change on page b, 2nd to last paragraph, regarding meetings with Department Heads, “at the request of the Amity Finance Committee...” Chairperson Hurley reminded the Board that this bylaw is currently in suspension through December 31, 2017. Lengthy discussion followed. This bylaw will be discussed at the Policy Meeting to be held on September 18th, and Chairperson Hurley requested comments and concerns from Board members at that meeting or via email.

c. Second reading of the following:

3. Adopt

- a. **1100 – Communications with the Public, Communication (enclosure)**
- b. **1111 – Use of Educational Television Channel (enclosure)**
- c. **1112.1 – Coverage of Board of Education Meetings (enclosure)**
- d. **1112.3 – School News Releases, Access to Information (enclosure)**

Motion by Ms. McCreven, 2nd by Ms. Cohen, to adopt policies 1100, 1111, 1112.1, and 1112.3

Discussion followed. Questions regarding the policies were answered by Dr. Dumais.

Vote in favor, 11-0, (Mr. Belfonti, Ms. Berke, Mr. Browe, Ms. Carlson, Ms. Cardozo, Ms. Cofrancesco,

Ms. Cohen, Mr. DeMaio, Ms. Esposito, Ms. McCreven and Ms. Turner)

Motion carried

7. Personnel

Ms. Cohen stated that the Personnel Committee would meet on September 26th about developing priorities for teacher negotiations, which will begin on October 4th.

8. District Technology

Mr. DeMaio will have a report for the Board at the next meeting.

9. District Health and Safety

Mr. DeMaio will have a report for the Board at the next meeting.

13. Items for next agenda

Please forward any items to Dr. Dumais or Chairperson Hurley.

Ms. McCreven mentioned that there is recommended language from the National Education Association (NEA) regarding student safety and immigration. She questioned whether this should go to the Policy Committee.

14. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. DeMaio, 2nd by Mr. Browe, to adjourn at 9:11 pm.

Vote in favor, 11-0, (Mr. Belfonti, Ms. Berke, Mr. Browe, Ms. Carlson, Ms. Cardozo, Ms. Cofrancesco, Ms. Cohen, Mr. DeMaio, Ms. Esposito, Ms. McCreven, and Ms. Turner) **Motion carried**

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth E. Natzel, Recording Clerk

Sheila McCreven, Secretary