

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman William Blake, Mr. John Belfonti, Mr. Christopher Browe, Ms. Patricia Cardozo, Ms. Sue Cohen, Ms. Diane Crocco, Mr. Steven Demaio, Ms. Rita Gedansky, Mr. Thomas Hurley, Ms. Tracy Lane-Russo, Mr. James Stirling and Ms. Diane Urbano.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Ms. Sheila McCreven

Staff members present: Dr. Charles Dumais, Ms. Terry Lumas, Mr. Sean DeRosa, Ms. Mary Raiolo, Mr. Kevin Keller and Dr. Marie McPadden.

Also present: Mrs. Ruth Natzel, Mr. R. J. Kaoud, Mr. Junqi Ding, Ms. Xiaoqian Kong, Ms. Rosalyn Klein, Ms. Ellen Scalettar (1st selectman Woodbridge) and Ms. Amy Esposito.

A regular meeting of the Amity Regional Board of Education (BOE) was held on Monday, September 21, 2015 at 6:30 pm in the presentation room at the Amity District Offices.

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman William Blake called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.

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

3. **Approval of minutes.**

A. **Regular BOE meeting, August 10, 2015 (enclosure)**

Motion by Mr. Hurley, 2nd by Mr. Stirling to approve the minutes.

Correction on page 6, spelling of Ms. Urbano’s name

Correction on #7, extra “to”.

Vote unanimous (Mr. Demaio abstained)

Motion carried

4. **Public Comment**

Mr. Ding commented on a safety issue at Amity High School; he stated that to drop off children via North Pease Road takes at least 10 minutes or longer. Students are walking along as well. He asked the Board to consider a safer area for drop off. (see attached).

5. **Student Report**

Mr. R. J. Kaoud gave an update on events at Amity High School over the past month as well as informing the Board of upcoming events. Student government had their first meeting and the senior lounge project is continuing. He thanked the PTSO for their \$500 donation toward the Senior Lounge project. Club Day is coming up.

Ms. Russo arrived at 6:50 pm

6. **Annual Facilities Report (enclosure)**

Dr. Dumais commended Mr. Saisa and his team for their hard work and his excellent report.

7. **Correspondence** – none.

8. **Superintendent’s Report**

A. **Personnel Report – (enclosure)** Two new teachers have been hired.

B. **Other**

Dr. Dumais reported that school opening was smooth. He gave the Board an update on training coming up through ACES, CAFE and professional days. The District is continuing to work on curriculum alignment. Teacher training took place with McGraw-Hill in conjunction with the new math textbooks. Instructional rounds will begin to be implemented

with administrative teams and then with teaching staff. There are plans to be nearly-monthly sessions for the community/parents at large on various topics that affect them and the students.

9. Chairman's Report -

A. Committee Reports

1. **ACES** - Report from Ms. Cohen regarding renovation-as-new of a school in Hamden for special needs. ACES is looking to expand the fine arts program and their summer school program.
2. **CABE** – no report. Board members should call Karen Wade to register for the CABE convention in November. So far three Board members are going to attend.
3. **Curriculum** – The Curriculum Committee will meet on Thursday, September 24th.
4. **Facilities** – The Facilities Committee met on September 09, 2015. There was discussion of the FuelCell contract and lease agreement. The Facilities Committee agreed that the bid process and lease agreement were acceptable (enclosure, page 22).
5. **Finance**
 - A. **Discussion of appointment of auditor for next financial audit.**

Motion by Mr. Stirling, 2nd by Mr. Browe to award the contract for professional auditing services to Mahoney Sabol & Company, LLP of Glastonbury, Connecticut for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016 at the bid price of \$33,500.

There was some discussion regarding the idea that there might be a need to change auditing firms when this contract is up.

Vote unanimous

Motion carried

B. Presentation of revised annual report on reserve fund for capital and nonrecurring expenditures.

Ms. Lumas presented the revised report this fund. The only change from the August meeting is that the finances are broken out in two amounts for the fuel cell project.

C. Discussion and possible action on contracts of \$35,000 or more

1. Snow removal equipment

Motion by Ms. Cohen, 2nd by Ms. Crocco to award for the contract for snow removal equipment to Lock, Stock & Barrel, of Bethany, Connecticut for the bid price of \$36,375.60.

Vote unanimous

Motion carried

2. Amity Regional High School coping repairs.

Motion by Ms. Crocco, 2nd by Ms. Gedansky to award contract for stone coping repair project to F.J. Dahill Company, Inc. of New Haven, Connecticut for the bid price of \$29,970.

Vote unanimous

Motion carried

3. Heat exchanger at Amity Regional High School

Motion by Mr. Browe, 2nd by Mr. Hurley to move this item and make it number 11, after executive session.

Vote unanimous

Motion carried

D. Discussion of monthly financial statements

E. Director of Finance and Administration approved transfers under \$3,000

F. Discussion and possible action on budget Transfers of \$3,000 or more

Motion by Mr. Stirling, 2nd by Ms. Crocco to approve the transfer for the heat exchanger in the amount of \$57,950 in the Reserve Fund for Capital and Nonrecurring Expenditures from 'Engineering study for fuel cell waste heat use at Amity Regional High School' to 'Purchase and installation of heat exchanger at Amity Regional High School'.

Vote unanimous

Motion carried

G. Other**1. Update on Financial Audit**

Ms. Lumas reported that the audit is complete and that a report will be forthcoming.

6. Policy**A. Policy 7551 – Naming of Amity facilities – Second Read (enclosure)**

Mr. Hurley asked that this be moved to the next meeting because the Facilities Committee did not meet; they will meet on September 28th at 5:30 pm to take up this policy as requested by the Board.

Motion by Mr. Browe, 2nd by Mr. Hurley, that this item be moved to the next Board meeting

Vote unanimous

Motion carried

7. Personnel

Motion Ms. Gedansky, 2nd by Ms. Crocco to go to executive session at 7:20 pm with Dr. Dumais invited to attend.

Vote unanimous

Motion carried

10. Discussion of lease agreement (executive session)

The Board returned from executive session to regular session at 8:06 p.m.

11. Possible action on lease agreement

Motion by Mr. Hurley, 2nd by Ms. Gedansky to authorize Amity Regional School District 5 Superintendent to enter into a lease agreement with United Illuminating as tenant concerning the project to install a fuel cell as presented at this meeting. Dr. Dumais will be able to make minor changes as necessary to reflect the intent of the parties in entering into this agreement.

Mr. Blake commended the members of the Facilities Committee past and present for their diligence and hard work in getting to this agreement.

Vote unanimous (Ms. Urbano abstained)

Motion carried

Vote unanimous

Motion carried

12. Heat exchanger at Amity Regional High School

Motion by Mr. Stirling, 2nd by Mr. Belfonti to award the contract for the purchase and installation of a heat exchanger at Amity Regional High School to FuelCell Energy of Danbury, Connecticut, at a price not to exceed \$391,682.00. The Amity Board of Education waives the bidding requirement.

13. Items for next agenda – Please forward any items for the next agenda to Dr. Dumais or Mr. Blake.

14. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Hurley, 2nd by Mr. Browe to adjourn at 8:14 pm.

Vote unanimous

Motion carried

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth E. Natzel, Recording Clerk

Thomas Hurley, Secretary

Attachment, 2 pages from Mr. Ding, public comment