

MINUTES

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman William Blake, Mr. John Belfonti, Ms. Robyn Berke, Mr. Christopher Browe, Ms. Patricia Cardozo, Ms. Sue Cohen, Mr. Steven DeMaio, Ms. Amy Esposito, Mr. Thomas Hurley, Ms. Tracey Russo, Ms. Sheila McCreven, Mr. James Stirling and Ms. Diane Urbano.

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**Staff members present:** : Dr. Charles Dumais, Ms. Theresa Lumas, Mr. Scott Cleary, Dr. Richard Dellinger, Mr. Shaun DeRosa, Mr. Peter Downhour, Ms. Patricia Fitzgerald, Ms. Kathi Fuller-Cutler, Mr. Ernie Goodwin, Ms. Anna Mahon, Dr. E. Marie McPadden, Ms. Mary Raiola and Mr. Jim Saisa.

**Also present:** Mr. Robert Guthrie, Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) representative; Mr. Jim Leahy, vice-chairman of Board of Finance, Orange; other members of the public.

A regular meeting of the Amity Regional Board of Education (BOE) was held on Monday, March 13 2017 at 6:30 pm in the presentation room at the District Offices.

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman William Blake called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm.

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

3. **Presentation of CABE Communication Award – Mr. Robert Guthrie, CABE Board of Directors**

Mr. Guthrie presented the CABE award for excellence in educational communication to Amity Region 5 Schools for the Amity District Calendar. Mr. Blake accepted the award on behalf of Amity Schools and thanked Mr. Guthrie and the CABE Board of Directors.

4. **Recognition of Superintendent’s South Central Area Superintendent’s Association (SCASA) Award recipients**

Dr. Dumais introduced the principals from each of the Amity Regional Schools (Dr. Dellinger, Ms. Fuller-Cutler and Ms. Mahon) to present the awards to 2 students from each school.

**Jacob Silbert** is an 8<sup>th</sup> grade student at Amity Middle School, Bethany Campus. He is a strong role model and participates at a thoughtful and insightful level in his academic classes. He has received both first honors and citizenship honors at AMSB and is a peer tutor. He has served as a student tour guide for parents at Back-to-School-Night and for incoming sixth grade students during our elementary school orientation. To further his own academic work, he’s involved in Kumon. He has been involved in community service in the school and took a lead role in the school collection for the Connecticut Food Bank. Jacob also volunteers at his religious school one to two times a week. Jacob is an avid baseball fan and plays in leagues throughout the year. He is involved in extracurricular organizations that further his religious participation, such as Jewish Teen Education and *B'nai B'rith Youth Organization*. Both of these are platforms for delivering meaningful experiences that inspire inclusivity, culture, education, leadership, tradition, and lasting connections. Jacob exemplifies the traits recognized by the SCASA and is truly deserving of this award.

**McAllister Dixon**, Cally as she is known by her classmates and teachers, is an 8<sup>th</sup> grade student at Amity Middle School, Bethany Campus. She is an exceptional student. She earns A’s exclusively in advanced courses and has made both the honor roll and citizenship honors each marking period while at AMSB. She has served as a student tour guide for parents at Back-to-School-Night and for incoming sixth grade students during our elementary school orientation. In addition, Cally participated in a Woman’s Leadership Conference, is a peer tutor and a member of the social robotics program. Cally takes on a leadership role both in and out of school. She is a seasoned piano player and a uniquely exceptional athlete. She is a leading contributor on the State and Regional Championship Ginga FC soccer team. She is a

member of the Shoreline Sharks 14U ice hockey team and was recently selected by the New England District of USA Hockey as one of the top players in the region. She is also a volunteer hockey coach for younger kids. Cally exemplifies the traits recognized by the SCASA Award and is truly deserving of this award.

**Andrew Coscia** is an 8<sup>th</sup> grade student at Amity Middle School, Orange Campus. He is outgoing, friendly, personable, well-liked and respected by his peers and teachers. His teachers say he is a hard worker and a natural leader in the classroom, always striving to his highest potential in school and in the community. Andrew is very active with sports, extracurricular activities and community service and is a talented baseball and basketball player. He has been an asset to the Amity Middle School - Orange Baseball Team, his travel baseball team and rec basketball league. Andrew is dedicated to service in the community and as a member of the Boy Scouts is involved in various community service activities. Andrew is currently working his way up to Eagle Scout and deciding on his Eagle Scout project.

**Payton Rahn** is an 8<sup>th</sup> grade student at Amity Middle School, Orange Campus. She is a friendly and caring young woman who exemplifies the qualities of service and leadership. Payton works hard, perseveres in her classes and it shows in her excellent grades. She is a positive role model in the classroom and in the community. Generous and thoughtful, Payton devotes much of her time to volunteer work and is an active member of Fabulous Friends and Unified Sports Team at Amity Middle School Orange, assisting students with both physical and mental disabilities. Payton also participates in and helps organize various community service projects as well, such as a candy drive, "Sweets and Treats for Survivors and Fighters", collecting Halloween candy to donate overseas and to various community organizations. Payton has also participated in the town police department service activities. In her free time Payton plays field hockey and is a goalie for her travel lacrosse team in Orange.

**Ryan Ford** is an 11<sup>th</sup> grade student at Amity High School. As an involved member of the Amity Community, Ryan Ford has his hand in many facets including athletic, academic, leadership and community service activities. As an Amity athlete Ryan is a member of the Cross Country and Indoor Track teams as well as Ultimate Frisbee. Two of Ryan's most noteworthy activities include his time on Unified Sports and Link Crew where he mentors and supports other students. He spends his time volunteering to help students with special needs, acting as a coach during their athletic competitions with Unified Sports. As a Link Crew Leader, Ryan mentors freshman students as they transition from middle school to high school. In this capacity he can use his maturity and compassion to make a positive impact on other students. In addition to these activities Ryan works on the Yearbook staff and has participated in the Academic Decathlon. Ryan is reliable and considerate and is held in high regard by his teachers and peers alike. He has made a significant impact on the Amity community in his three years at the high school.

**Carly Marchitto** is currently a junior at Amity High School. She is a dynamic young woman who has challenged herself in a tough advanced academic course track. She is dedicated to learning and bettering herself. Carly thrives on her relationships with people and her ability to make others feel welcome in her presence. These traits are best displayed while she is performing her Link Crew activities. She is always willing to jump into an activity and lend a helping hand for our freshman class. Carly is also an accomplished athlete and participates on a year-round travel softball team in addition to her tenure on the Amity High School Varsity Softball Team. Carly helps our academically and physically challenged students by investing her time with our Unified Sports Program and Summer Sidekicks Enrichment Program. Carly is a friend to all and an asset to our school community.

The 6 recipients were congratulated by their principals, Dr. Dumais and the entire BOE for their achievements.

Mr. Blake informed those present that the Board would take a short recess at this time, 6:45 pm; the Board reconvened at 6:55 pm.

**Motion by Ms. Urbano, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Russo to move agenda item 8 to before item 5.**

**Vote all in favor**

**Motion carried**

**8. Transition Program presentation, Unified Sports Award – Ms. Patricia Fitzgerald**

Mr. Goodwin introduced Ms. Fitzgerald and thanked the CIAC for their support in expanding the Unified Sports program at Amity down to the middle school level. Mr. Goodwin detailed the criteria for earning the award and congratulated the students, coaches and aides in the program. Ms. Fitzgerald told those present a bit more about the program and then played a short video that showed the students in action. Photos were taken of the students and aides with the award banner.

**5. Approval of minutes.**

**A. Regular BOE meeting, January 09, 2017 (enclosure)**

**B. Regular BOE meeting, February 13, 2017 (enclosure)**

**Motion by Mr. Belfonti, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Hurley to table approval of the minutes.**

**Vote all in favor (12)**

**Motion carried**

**6. Public Comment**

Mr. John Grabowski, Chairman, Bethany Board of Finance and member of the Finance Committee stated that he felt the proposed budget for 2017-2018 was very responsible and was in favor of this budget going forward. He also stated that he would like to see the year-end surplus funds stay intact in order to return as much money to the towns as possible.

**7. Student Report**

Ms. Ananya Kachru gave an update on events at Amity High School, Amity Middle School Bethany Campus and Amity Middle School Orange Campus over the past month, as well as informing the Board of upcoming events. She answered questions from the Board members regarding various activities and programs.

**9. Presentations and discussion of, and possible action on, Superintendent's proposed 2017-2018 budget (enclosure)**

Dr. Dumais stated that the changes to the budget since the last meeting include a decrease in budget for special education, 2 facility items removed from the budget, .8 FTE music teacher removed and funding for the School Resource Officer (SRO) added to the budget. Dr. Dumais stated that the music teacher position may be able to be put back in the budget in light of teacher resignations and retirements. The budget now stands at \$48,439,163 gross, 48,250,162 net, which is a 1.26% increase over the previous budget.

**Motion by Ms. Russo, 2<sup>nd</sup> by \_\_\_\_\_ to approve the proposed budget for the fiscal year 2017-2018 in the gross amount of \$48,439,163 and the net amount of \$48,250,162.**

**Motion by Mr. Hurley, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Browe to amend the motion to reduce the budget by \$23,500.**

Mr. Stirling stated that the Finance Committee recommended the budget by approved by the full Board at the amounts as presented.

Discussion followed regarding the final figure for the proposed budget.

Mr. Blake called for a vote on the amendment.

**Vote in favor 6 (Mr. Browe, Mr. DeMaio, Mr. Hurley, Ms. McCreven, Mr. Stirling and Ms. Urbano)**

**Vote opposed 6 (Mr. Belfonti, Ms. Berke, Ms. Cardozo, Ms. Cohen, Ms. Esposito, and Ms. Russo)**

**Chairman Mr. Blake votes opposed**

**Motion to amend defeated**

Further discussion followed.

*Motion by Ms. Russo to amend her motion to include "net amount of \$48,250,162, no more than a 1.26% increase."*  
*Motion seconded by Mr. Belfonti.*

Vote in favor 10 (Mr. Belfonti, Ms. Berke, Mr. Browe, Ms. Cardozo, Mr. DeMaio, Ms. Esposito, Mr. Hurley, Ms. Russo, Ms. McCreven, Mr. Stirling and Ms. Urbano.)

Vote opposed 1 (Ms. Cohen)

Abstention 1 (Mr. Hurley)

Motion to amend carried

There was further discussion by Board members regarding the budget.

Mr. Blake called for a vote on the motion as amended.

Vote in favor 9 (Mr. Belfonti, Ms. Berke, Ms. Cardozo, Ms. Cohen, Ms. Esposito, Ms. McCreven, Mr. Stirling and Ms. Urbano)

Vote opposed 3 (Mr. Browe, Ms. DeMaio and Mr. Hurley)

Motion carried

*Motion by Mr. Hurley, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. DeMaio to move agenda items 10 and 11 to after item 14.A.6.*

Vote in favor 11 (Mr. Belfonti, Ms. Berke, Mr. Browe, Ms. Cardozo, Ms. Cohen, Mr. DeMaio, Ms. Esposito, Mr. Hurley, Ms. Russo, Mr. Stirling and Ms. Urbano.)

Vote opposed 1 (Ms. McCreven)

Motion carried

## 12. Correspondence - none

## 13. Superintendent's Report

### A. Personnel Report – (enclosure)

### B. Superintendent's monthly report (enclosure)

### C. Other

Dr. Dumais informed the Board that 6 seniors from Amity High School have been recognized as National Merit Finalists.

## 8. Chairman's Report -

### A. Committee Reports

1. **ACES** - Ms. Cohen gave a summary of the last meeting.

2. **CABE** - Ms. McCreven gave a summary of recent and upcoming CABE events.

3. **Curriculum** – Mr. Browe reported that the Curriculum Committee met on March 9<sup>th</sup> and approved 3 new tests; minutes are enclosed.

4. **Facilities** – The Facilities Committee has not met.

#### A. Facilities Department monthly report, 2017 (enclosure)

### 5. Finance

A. **Auditing Service proposals** - Dr. Dumais stated that proposals are being evaluated and as many as 3 will be forwarded to the Finance Committee for consideration at their April meeting; he noted that the start time for the April meeting may be pushed back to 5:00 pm due to a lengthy agenda.

### B. Discussion of monthly financial statements

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

### D. Other

1. District Public Budget Hearing – April 03, 2017.

## 6. Policy

**A. First read of the following policy recommendations:**

1. **New: 5142.4 and 5131.111** - Dr. Dumais explained the policy in light of the SRO. There was discussion regarding whether or not to move forward on this policy while the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding the SRO is being negotiated.

**Motion by Mr. Browe, 2<sup>nd</sup> by \_\_\_\_\_ to table first read of policy 5142.4.**

Further discussion followed; the motion to table this first read was found to be out of order.

Mr. Hurley gave an overview of policy 5131.111. Discussion followed regarding the particulars of video surveillance in school versus police video. Mr. Hurley encouraged anyone in attendance who had concerns regarding these two new policies to come to the Policy Committee meeting on Monday March 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm.

2. **Accepted: 0050.1, 0100,0200, 0521, 0521.1, 0521.2.** These policies were accepted with no changes.
3. **Rejected: 0210, 0210.1, 0210.2 and 0211.** These policies were rejected as unnecessary.
4. **Edited: 0000 and 0300.**

**7. Personnel**

**Motion by Mr. DeMaio, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Hurley to go into Executive Session for agenda item 10, inviting Dr. Dumais and then later the candidate for principal at Amity Middle School, Orange Campus at 8:40 pm**

**Vote all in favor**

**Motion carried**

**10. Discussion on appointment of Principal at Amity Regional Middle School, Orange Campus.**

The Board returned from Executive Session and reconvened at 9:01 pm

**11. Possible action on appointment of Principal at Amity Regional Middle School, Orange Campus.**

**Motion by Mr. Browe, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Hurley to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to appoint Kathy Burke to the position of Amity Regional Middle School-Orange Principal with a start date of July 01, 2017 at a salary of \$138,466.**

**Vote all in favor**

**Motion carried**

**15. Items for next agenda – please forward any items to Dr. Dumais or Mr. Blake.****16. Adjournment**

**Motion by \_\_\_\_\_, 2<sup>nd</sup> by \_\_\_\_\_ to adjourn at 9:03 pm.**

**Vote unanimous**

**Motion carried**

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth E. Natzel, Recording Clerk

Thomas Hurley, Secretary