

AMITY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5

BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR MEETING

JUNE 12, 2017

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman William Blake, Mr. John Belfonti, Ms. Robyn Berke (arrived 6:40 pm), Mr. Christopher Browe, Ms. Patricia Cardozo, Ms. Sue Cohen, Mr. Steven DeMaio (arrived 6:35 pm), Ms. Amy Esposito, Mr. Thomas Hurley, Ms. Sheila McCreven, Mr. James Stirling and Ms. Diane Urbano (departed 9:00 pm).

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. Kathleen Fuller-Cutler, Mr. Ernie Goodwin, Ms. Anna Mahon, Dr. E. Marie McPadden and Ms. Mary Raiola.

Also present: Other members of the public.

A regular meeting of the Amity Regional Board of Education (BOE) was held on Monday, June 12, 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 6:30 pm.

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

3. **Presentation of Jack B. Levine Efficiency Awards of Excellence**

Dr. Dumais introduced Ms. Lumas to present the awards given annually to students with the best ideas for cost savings for the district. Students receiving the awards this year are Alessandro Rivera and William LIVESAY (Amity Middle School, Bethany), Macaelan Rahn and Corey Richards (Amity Middle School, Orange) and Ben Sauberman (Amity High School).

Mr. Blake congratulated the recipients on their award and thanked them for their ideas.

4. **Recognition of Award of Excellence Recipients (enclosure)**

Dr. Dumais recognized two staff members, Mr. Kevin Berean and Ms. Karen Terni, for their contributions to Amity Middle School Bethany and Amity Middle School Orange (respectively). Mr. Berean was not able to be present to accept his award; Principal Kathleen Fuller-Cutler presented the award to Ms. Terni.

Mr. Blake congratulated both awardees and thanked them for their service to Amity Regional Schools.

5. **One Book, One Amity Presentation**

Dr. Dumais gave some background regarding this literacy project. Ms. Mahon introduced the students (Justine Liu and Bridget Farnsley) who were part of the book selection team and who also created an abridged, illustrated children's version of the book chosen, called "Every Day". Board members were presented with a copy of the book to read and viewed a copy of the abridged, illustrated version. Mr. Blake commended and thanked the students for their efforts.

6. **Board Member Recognition**

Mr. Blake recognized Mr. James (Jamie) Stirling for his 8 years of service on the Board of Education and also as Chairman of the Finance Committee, stating he is the most prepared and most idealistic member he has served with and that Mr. Stirling has been very helpful to him as a sounding board and as a good friend. He thanked Mr. Stirling for his service on behalf of the Board.

The Board took a break for coffee and cake at this point, 6:50 pm; reconvened at 7:08 pm

7. Approval of minutes.**A. Regular BOE meeting, May 08, 2017 (enclosure)**

Motion by Ms. Cohen, 2nd by Mr. Hurley to approved the minutes as submitted.

Two corrections were made to the vote on page 8 of the minutes (Mr. Belfonti absent and Mr. Blake opposed to table)

Vote in favor 11-0

Motion carried

Minutes of May 08, 2017 were corrected and resubmitted

B. Special BOE Meeting, Board self-evaluation, May 16, 2017 (enclosure)

Motion by Mr. Hurley, 2nd by Ms. Esposito to approve the minutes as submitted.

Vote in favor, 7-0; 4 abstentions (Mr. Belfonti, Mr. Browe, Ms. Cardozo and Ms. Cohen)

Motion carried

Mr. Blake asked Mr. Hurley for his report on Robert's Rules regarding voting to approve minutes if a person was not present at the meeting. Mr. Hurley stated that there is no restriction in Robert's Rules, nor is there a meeting attendance in order to vote to approve minutes.

C. Superintendent Evaluation, June 06, 2017 (enclosure)

Motion by Mr. Hurley, 2nd by Mr. Belfonti to approve the minutes as submitted

Vote in favor, 9-0; 2 abstentions (Mr. Browe and Ms. Esposito)

Motion carried

8. Public Comment

Mr. Peter Downhour, teacher at Amity Regional High School, stated he was grateful to Mr. Stirling for his service and for his example as a parent and supporter of Amity Schools.

Mr. Tom Hurley, BOE member, stated that he appreciated all the time and effort Mr. Stirling has expended every year, especially regarding the development of the budget and that he will be greatly missed.

Ms. Cohen, BOE member, stated that she has worked closely with Mr. Stirling and while most of the time they did not agree, he caused her to think out of the box and she is grateful for that.

Mr. Browe, BOE member, thanked Mr. Stirling for his service, stating that he is the definition of a statesman and that he will be greatly missed.

Mr. Stirling, BOE member, thanked the Board and the community for the opportunity to serve them and for their efforts to disagree without being disagreeable.

9. 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.

Dr. Dumais announced that Ms. Kachru will be serving on Connecticut State Board of Education for 2017-2018, and that she is one of only 5 students state-wide chosen to participate. Ms. Mahon noted that other Amity students have applied to serve on the State Board before, but Ms. Kachru is the first one to be selected. Mr. Blake congratulated her on this achievement.

10. Athletics Presentation – Mr. Ernie Goodwin

Dr. Dumais introduced Mr. Goodwin. Mr. Goodwin made his presentation which included the year in photos set to music and much information and details about the athletic programs at both middle schools and the high school and the awards that have been received. He stated he is glad to be at Amity where balance between academics, athletics and the arts is stressed.

11. Discussion and vote on District Goals/Objectives (enclosure)

Motion by Mr. Hurley, 2nd by Mr. Browe to adopt the District Goals and Objectives.

Mr. Hurley commended the staff for their work in writing these goals and objectives and stated that these are the best ones he has seen; they set high standards and are measurable.

Vote in favor, 10-0; 1 abstention (Ms. Berke)

Motion carried

12. Election of Board of Education Vice-Chair (and resulting vacancies, if any)

Mr. Blake stated that election of a vice-chair was necessary to replace former vice-chair Tracey Russo who recently resigned. Mr. Blake thanked Ms. Russo for the fine work that she did during her time on the Board.

Ms. Blake opened the floor for nominations for vice-chair.

Mr. DeMaio nominated Mr. Tom Hurley for vice-chair of the Board, 2nd by Mr. Browe.

There were no other nominations and Mr. Blake closed nominations.

Vote 11-0 in favor including Mr. Blake; 1 abstention (Mr. Hurley)

Mr. Blake opened the floor for nominations for Board secretary, now vacated by Mr. Hurley.

Mr. DeMaio nominated Ms. Sheila McCreven for secretary of the Board, 2nd by Mr. Hurley.

There were no other nominations; Mr. Blake closed nominations.

Vote 11-0 in favor including Mr. Blake; 1 abstention (Ms. McCreven)

Mr. Blake stated that he had asked Mr. Belfonti to chair the Finance Committee with Mr. Stirling's departure as of June 30th and he accepted; he asked Ms. Cardozo to chair the Facilities Committee with the departure of Ms. Russo and she accepted.

13. Correspondence

- A. ABOE resignation (enclosure)**
- B. Response to ABOE resignation (enclosure)**
- C. Amity Alumni – Sharing the Good News (enclosure)**
- D. Orange Board of Finance letter (enclosure)**

14. Superintendent's Report

- A. Personnel Report – (enclosure)**
- B. Superintendent Report (enclosure)**

Dr. Dumais highlighted items in his enclosed report.

8. Chairman's Report -**A. Committee Reports**

1. **ACES** – no report
2. **CABE** - June 13th is the Legislative Wrap-Up Session.
3. **Curriculum** – The Curriculum Committee has not met.
4. **Facilities** – The Facilities Committee has not met.
 - A. **Facilities Department monthly report, May 2017 (enclosure)**

5. Finance**A. Discussion of Capital Reserve Appropriations (enclosure)**

Dr. Dumais gave some background information regarding changes to the process going forward. Putting aside funds in the capital reserve equal to or less than 1% of the total budget each year could result in savings by not incurring additional debt. There was a lengthy discussion and questions regarding the mechanisms that would be used to do this and the timing of such decisions.

B. Discussion and possible action on Healthy Foods Certification (enclosure)

This was approved by the Finance Committee in May and tabled by the BOE at their May meeting, requesting more information. Dr. Dumais thanked Ms. Lumas for her work in gathering this information for the Board. Ms. Lumas noted that this must be voted on this evening in order to be in compliance with the June 30th deadline.

Motion by Ms. McCreven, 2nd by Mr. Browe to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to sign Form ED-099 indicating that Amity Regional School District No. 5 will certify that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under our jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will meet said standards during the period of July 01, 2017 through June 30, 2018.

There was discussion regarding the pros and cons of staying in the program versus leaving the program, the costs involved, etc.

Vote in favor 10-0; 1 opposed (Mr. Hurley)

Motion carried

Motion by Ms. McCreven, 2nd by Mr. Hurley to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to sign Form ED-099 indicating that Amity Regional School District No. 5 will exclude from certification food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards, provided that(1) such food is sold in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend, (2) such sale is at the location of the event, and (3) such food is not sold from a vending machine or school store.

Vote in favor 11-0

Motion carried

C. Discussion and possible action on contracts of \$35,000 or more**1. Stop-Loss insurance**

Motion by Mr. Browe, 2nd by Mr. Stirling to award the individual and aggregate stop-loss to Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield CT, of Wallingford, Connecticut for the 2017-2018 fiscal year at a price of \$462,672.

Mr. Hurley recused himself from the discussion and vote

Vote 10-0 in favor

Motion carried

2. Food service contract – renewal

3. Web design

Motion by Ms. McCreven, 2nd by Mr. Hurley to waive the bidding requirement and authorize the Superintendent to enter into a contract with Finalsight for website services for the 2017-2018 fiscal year at a price of \$18,000; \$10,000 for set up, and \$8,000 for five years of support. Total 5-year cost is \$50,000.

Discussion and questions followed.

Ms. McCreven moved to call the question.

Vote 9 in favor; 2 opposed (Ms. Berke and Mr. Browe)

Motion carried

Vote on the motion:

8 in favor, 2 opposed, (Mr. Browe, Ms. Esposito), 1 abstention (Ms. Berke)

Motion carried

4. Student accident insurance

Motion by Ms. Cohen, 2nd by Mr. Belfonti to award the student accident insurance for the 2017-2018 school year to Abbate Insurance Associates of New Haven, Connecticut for the quoted price of \$34,155.00, which includes catastrophic accident insurance. The carrier is Zurich Insurance Company. This is the second of two option years. The Board reserves the right to cancel the contract if Abbate Insurance Associates of New Haven fails to perform in a satisfactory manner.

Mr. Hurley recused himself from this discussion and vote.

Short discussion followed

Vote in favor 10, unanimous

Motion carried

D. Discussion of monthly financial statements (enclosure)

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

6. Policy

A. Second reading of the following:

1. 1000 (enclosure)

Motion by Ms. McCreven, 2nd by Mr. Browe to adopt policy 1000.

Vote 11-0, unanimous

Motion carried

Motion by Mr. DeMaio, 2nd by Mr. Browe that the Board go into executive session and to invite Dr. Dumais for the first portion of the session.

Vote 11-0, unanimous

Motion carried

The Board adjourned to executive session at 8:55 pm. Dr. Dumais joined the session and departed at 9:18 pm.

7. Personnel

A. Discussion of non-union salary benefits (executive session)

- B. Discussion of Superintendent written evaluation (executive session)
- C. Discussion of Superintendent contract (executive session)

The Board reconvened its regular meeting at 9:55 pm

- D. Possible action on non-union salary/benefits

Motion by Mr. Stirling, 2nd by Mr. DeMaio to approve the contract for non-union salary and benefits as discussed in executive session.

Vote 10-0, unanimous

Motion carried

- E. Possible action on Superintendent written evaluation

Motion by Mr. Browe, 2nd by Ms. Cohen to authorize the Board Chairman to sign the Superintendent written evaluation as discussed in executive session.

Vote 10-0, unanimous

Motion carried

- F. Possible action on Superintendent contract.

Motion by Mr. Belfonti, 2nd by Ms. Cardozo to approve the Superintendent contract as discussed in executive session.

Mr. Blake asked for an amendment to the motion to include authorizing the Chairman to sign the contract.

Motion by Mr. Belfonti, 2nd by Ms. Cardozo to amend the motion to include authorization for the Chairman to sign the Superintendent contract.

Vote 10-0, unanimous

Motion carried

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

17. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Stirling , 2nd by Ms. Esposito to adjourn at 10:00 pm.

Vote 10-0, unanimous

Motion carried

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth E. Natzel, Recording Clerk

Sheila McCreven, Secretary