

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman William Blake, Mr. John Belfonti, Ms. Robyn Berke (departed at 7:15 pm), Mr. Christopher Browe, Ms. Patricia Cardozo, Ms. Sue Cohen, Mr. Steven DeMaio, Ms. Amy Esposito, Mr. Thomas Hurley, Ms. Sheila McCreven and Mr. James Stirling.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Ms. Tracey Russo and Ms. Diane Urbano.

Staff members present: : Dr. Charles Dumais, Ms. Theresa Lumas, Mr. Scott Cleary, Dr. Richard Dellinger, Ms. Kathleen Fuller-Cutler, Mr. Ernie Goodwin, Ms. Jill LaPlante, Ms. Anna Mahon, Dr. Marie McPadden and Ms. Mary Raiola.

Also present: Ms. Ananya Kachru, Mr. Rich Adinolfi and other members of the public.

A regular meeting of the Amity Regional Board of Education (BOE) was held on Monday, November 14, 2016 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. Recognition of Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS) Award recipients

Dr. Dumais introduced the principals of both middle schools and the high school to present the CAPSS awards.

Dr. Dellinger, principal, Amity Middle School-Bethany Campus – Jonathan Fischman and Gabriella Urbano.

Ms. Fuller-Cutler, principal, Amity Middle School-Orange Campus – Abigail Ganum and Max Kruger.

Ms. Mahon, principal, Amity Regional High School – Andrew Hague, Jacob Hollander, Bailey MacNamara, Carly Mastrangelo, Alekya Menta and Jacob Okolo.

Dr. Dumais stated that the complete student biographies are included in the packet. Mr. Blake congratulated all the students and their families on behalf of the Board.

4. Financial Award presentation – Mr. Rich Adinolfi of Horace Mann explained that the company is like USAA for educators. He presented the Association for School Business Officials award to Mr. Scott Cleary for achieving his School Finance and Operation (SFO) certificate. Mr. Cleary was congratulated by Mr. Blake on behalf of the Board and by all those present.

Mr. Blake called for a 5-minute recess to allow family and friends to depart. The Board meeting was called back to order at 6:47 pm.

5. Approval of minutes.

A. Regular BOE meeting, October 17, 2016 (enclosure)

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

Vote unanimous with abstentions by Mr. DeMaio, Mr. Belfonti and Mr. Stirling

Motion carried

B. Special BOE meeting, October 25, 2016 (enclosure)

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

Vote unanimous with abstentions by Mr. Browe, Mr. Belfonti and Mr. Stirling

Motion carried

6. Public Comment – none.

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.

8. Presentation by Ms. Kathleen Fuller-Cutler, Principal, Amity Middle School, Orange Campus (attachment)

Ms. Fuller-Cutler gave an overview of the special concerns of middle school students and highlighted one team in particular at Amity Middle School-Orange Campus, the support services team. Some members of the team were present at the meeting and Ms. Fuller-Cutler introduced them and described their excellent contributions to the student body.

Ms. Fuller-Cutler answered questions from the Board members. Mr. Blake thanked Ms. Fuller-Cutler and the support services team on behalf of the Board. Dr. Dumais noted that Ms. Fuller-Cutler has announced her intention to retire as of June 2017.

9. Discussion of CABE Delegate Assembly 2017 proposed resolutions (enclosure)

Motion by Mr. Browe, 2nd by Mr. DeMaio to appoint Ms. McCreven as the CABE representative for the Amity Board of Education.

Discussion was held between the Board members regarding the resolutions themselves.

Vote unanimous

Motion carried

10. Discussion and possible action on 2017-2018 calendar (enclosure)

Motion by Mr. Hurley, 2nd by Ms. Cardozo to accept the proposed calendar for 2017-2018.
Vote 9 in favor, 1 against (Mr. Browe)

Motion carried

Dr. Dumais stated that the calendar will be posted online and will be sent to families in the District.

11. Discussion and possible action of funding of school resource officer (SRO).

Mr. Blake explained the current funding arrangement for the SRO (memorandum of understanding with the town of Woodbridge). Mr. Hurley explained that the Policy Committee discussed the current arrangement versus establishing funding for the SRO within the school budget due to possible conflicts with upcoming policy changes. Lengthy discussion and questions followed. Dr. Dumais stated that Board counsel will look at the current documents.

Motion by Mr. Browe, 2nd by Mr. DeMaio that the Board acquire and look at the last three years of funding of the SRO from the Town of Woodbridge.

Mr. Blake stated that the motion was out of order and asked for an appeal vote to sustain the motion. A vote in favor will sustain the appeal/be in favor of the Chair's position; a vote against would overturn the appeal.

A number of Board members gave their opinion regarding the motion and the appeal.

Vote in favor of the appeal - Ms. Cardozo, Ms. Cohen, Ms. Esposito, Mr. Hurley, Ms. McCreven and Mr. Stirling.

Vote to overturn the appeal – Mr. Browe, Mr. DeMaio, Mr. Belfonti

Appeal sustained

12. Correspondence - None

13. Superintendent's Report**A. Personnel Report – (enclosure)****B. Superintendent's monthly report (enclosure) –** Dr. Dumais requested feedback regarding the amount of content in his monthly report.

He stated that instructional rounds have continued and have received positive reviews from those who are being observed as well as those doing the observation.

C. Other**14. Chairman's Report -****A. Committee Reports**

1. ACES – Ms. Cohen reported that the calendar had been finalized and that there were focus groups being formed regarding equity and equal access.

2. CAFE - Seven Board members and Dr. Dumais will be attending the CAFE convention later this week.

3. Curriculum – The Curriculum Committee met on October 27th and had a short meeting this evening as well. Mr. Browe gave the Board a synopsis of the meeting.

4. Facilities**A. Facilities Department monthly report, October 2016 (enclosure)****5. Finance****A. Discussion and Possible Action on Contracts of \$35,000 or More**

1. Copiers and print management – Ms. Lumas explained the changes in the Xerox contract. Mr. Stirling stated that the Finance Committee voted unanimously in favor of this contract. There were questions and discussion among the Board members regarding the new contract specifications versus what is currently in place; all questions were answered.

Motion by Mr. Stirling, 2nd by Mr. Belfonti to recommend the Amity Board of Education authorize the Superintendent of Schools to sign the Xerox contract for copiers, the laser printer management program, and the PaperCut Print Management solution, for the monthly charge of \$14,570.66 for the period of January 01, 2017 through December 31, 2021, inclusive. The Board's bidding requirement is waived.

Vote unanimous

Motion carried

B. Discussion and possible action to authorize Superintendent to sign and contract to procure natural gas. Ms. Lumas stated that she was seeking Board approval for the Superintendent to have the authority to decide whether or not the terms of the contract are acceptable. Dr. Dumais stated that this deal would likely be time-sensitive and move quickly (before the next Board meeting) and it is therefore prudent to have this approval in place. Mr. Stirling stated that the Finance Committee had approved this.

Motion by Mr. Browe, 2nd by Ms. Cohen that Titan Energy be authorized to seek out and recommend the most favorable contract for a natural gas supplier; further, the Superintendent of Schools be authorized to enter into a one year or multi-year contract, not to exceed three years, with a natural gas supplier provided the Superintendent of Schools deems the terms of the contract to be in the best interest of the District.

There was further discussion regarding having Titan Energy being specified. After discussion and consensus of the Board, Mr. Browe amended his motion:

Motion by Mr. Browe, 2nd by Ms. Cohen that the Superintendent and staff be authorized to seek out and recommend the most favorable contract for a natural gas supplier; further, the Superintendent of Schools be authorized to enter into a one year or multi-year contract, not to exceed three years, with a natural gas supplier provided the Superintendent of Schools deems the terms of the contract to be in the best interest of the District.

Vote 8 in favor, Ms. McCreven against

Motion carried

C. Discussion of Monthly Financial Statements

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

E. Information on second quarter 2016 executive summary review of Amity Pension Fund, Sick and Severance Account and OPEB Trust. - Mr. Stirling stated that the Finance Committee had no questions about the summary review.

F. Other

1. Information on Health Insurance Collaborative

Ms. Lumas stated that Amity was approached to join a health insurance collaborative. Amity already belongs to a stop-loss group. It was determined that joining this health insurance collaborative group would not be advantageous for Amity at this time. Observation will continue to see if the group actually forms.

2. Update on financial audit

Ms. Lumas stated that the draft is complete with the exception of a few more items that need to be plugged in. Once that happens, the final copy will be ready for sign-off.

3. Update on budget development

Dr. Dumais stated that the initial budget numbers submitted are conservative and that since they are so low which is positive, but this could make cuts more challenging. There will be a full administrative staff meeting on November 28th to begin the task. Due to the change in average daily membership for each member town this year, Orange will be paying more, just as Bethany and then Woodbridge have in turn.

Mr. DeMaio asked if any savings could be realized by offering early retirement as has been done in the past. Dr. Dumais answered that savings in 2010-2011 budget was because staff positions for those that took the offer were not replaced.

6. Policy

Mr. Hurley stated that the Policy Committee will meet on November 21st at 5:30 pm with a plan to get through the 9000 series, which is the Board bylaws. He asked Board members to bring any concerns to that meeting.

7. Personnel

Ms. Cohen stated that the Committee is preparing for negotiations with the administrators.

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

Mr. Blake wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

16. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Hurley, 2nd by Mr. DeMaio to adjourn at 9:00 pm.

Vote unanimous

Motion carried

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth E. Natzel, Recording Clerk

Thomas Hurley, Secretary

Attachment: Presentation, Ms. Fuller-Cutler, AMSO BOE presentation 11-14-2016