

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman William Blake, Mr. John Belfonti, Ms. Robyn Berke, Mr. Christopher Browe, 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: Ms. Patricia Cardozo.

Staff members present: Dr. Charles Dumais, Ms. Theresa Lumas, Mr. Scott Cleary, Anna Mahon, Dr. E. Marie McPadden, Ms. Mary Raiola, Mr. Jim Saisa and Mr. Derek Wilson.

Also present: Ms. Jennifer Hawkins and Ms. Samantha Thomas and other members of the public.

A regular meeting of the Amity Regional Board of Education (BOE) was held on Monday, January 09, 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 6:35 pm.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance** was recited by those present.
3. **Approval of minutes.**
 - A. **Regular BOE meeting, December 12, 2016 (enclosure)**

Motion by Mr. Hurley, 2nd by Ms. McCreven to accept the minutes as submitted.

Three changes were requested on pages 2, 3 and 4 of the minutes.

The Chairman called for a vote on the motion with the changes as stated.

Vote unanimous

Changes were made and minutes were re-submitted

Motion carried

4. **Public Comment – none.**

5. **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.

6. **Acceptance of donations to Amity Regional High School Drama Program**

Dr. Dumais stated that three donations were made to the Amity Regional High School Drama Department that needed to be formally accepted by the Board. These are: \$1,000 from the Jamie Hulley Arts Foundation to support the Amity Regional High School spring musical; \$1,500 from the Jamie Hulley Arts Foundation to support a master class from The Broadway Method Academy for students at Amity Regional High School and \$2,000 from the Flaumenhaft family to support the Amity Regional High School spring musical.

Motion by Ms. Cohen, 2nd by Mr. Hurley to accept the donations of \$1,000 and \$1,500 from the Jamie Hulley Arts Foundation.

Vote unanimous

Motion by Ms. Cohen, 2nd by Ms. Urbano to accept the donation of \$2,000 from the Flaumenhaft family.

Motion carried

Vote unanimous

Motion carried

Mr. Blake noted the continuing generosity of the Jamie Hulley Arts Foundation and the Flaumenhaft family as concerns the drama program at Amity Regional High School and thanked them for their support; he asked Dr. Dumais to write formal letters of thanks to both.

Motion by Mr. DeMaio, 2nd by Mr. Browe that the Board move to agenda items 9.A.5.A. 1,2 and 3 at this point in the meeting so that the Representatives from MahoneySabol could make their audit presentation.

Vote unanimous

Motion carried

9. Chairman's Report

A. Committee Reports

5. Finance

A. Discussion and possible action on audited financial statements

1. Review of audited financial statements by auditors (attachment)

Ms. Lumas introduced Ms. Jennifer Hawkins and Ms. Samantha Thomas from MaloneySabol. Ms. Hawkins presented the audit report to the Board members. Ms. Hawkins, Ms. Thomas and Ms. Lumas. Ms. Hawkins stated that there was an overall clean audit with no written recommendations made. There was some discussion among the Board members about the audit and the process and all questions were answered.

2. Discussion and possible action to accept annual financial statements

Motion by Mr. Hurley, 2nd by Mr. DeMaio to accept the audited financial statements from MaloneySabol for the period ending June 30, 2016.

Vote unanimous

Motion carried

3. Discussion and possible action to return funds to member towns.

Motion by Ms. Cohen, 2nd by Mr. Belfonti to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to return to the member towns a balance of \$741,057, as follows:

<i>Town of Bethany</i>	<i>\$154,280</i>
<i>Town of Orange</i>	<i>\$366,058</i>
<i>Town of Woodbridge</i>	<i><u>\$220,719</u></i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$741,057</i>

Vote unanimous

Motion carried

7. Correspondence – None.

8. Superintendent's Report

A. Personnel Report – (enclosure)

B. Superintendent's monthly report (enclosure)

Dr. Dumais highlighted items in his report including High School Re-imagined (page8), instructional rounds (page 9) upcoming conference presentation by Tom Norton, Rob Frangione and Keith Smolinski (page(, learning management system (page 10) opioids presentation on Wednesday January 11 at 6 pm(page 11), and the Amity Middle School, Orange Campus principal search that has begun. Dr. Dumais also mentioned an email sent to Board members earlier in the day regarding professional development mandates from the State of Connecticut, particularly appendix

C in that document; he encourage Board members to read appendix C for up to date information about required professional development.

C. Other

9. Chairman's Report -

A. Committee Reports

1. **ACES** – Ms. Cohen reported that ACES did not meet
2. **CABE** – Ms. McCreven reported that a legislative breakfast would take place on Wednesday January 11th.
3. **Curriculum** – The Curriculum Committee met on December 8th and will meet again on January 19th with a presentation on AESOP included on the agenda.
4. **Facilities** – The Facilities Committee met on December 20th; minutes are enclosed in the packet. Ms. Russo mentioned concerns from the Facilities Committee about after-hours security and accessibility at the high school. Mr. Blake will discuss this with Dr. Dumais.

A. Facilities Department monthly report, December 2016 (enclosure)

5. Finance

B. Timeline for presentation and discussion of Superintendent's 2017-2018 recommended budget

Ms. Lumas summarized the budget timeline as outlined in her memo of December 30, 2016 and noted that the Finance Committee will hold a Special meeting on January 23, 2017 for the Superintendent's budget presentation. The budget document will be sent out on January 13th.

C. New England School Development Council (NESDEC) enrollment report and summary graph.

Dr. Dumais summarized the enrollment projection report of December 13, 2016 as enclosed, noting that since the 2008 real estate slowdown, the District enrollment totals overall had been declining, yet now appear to be stabilizing. NESDEC's enrollment projection totals from fall of 2015 data came within 82 students of the actual Grade K-12 enrollment total for fall, 2016 (4,469 projected versus 4,458 actual). In Grade K-6, 2,245 pupils were projected versus 2,226 enrolled; in Grade 7-8 778 students were forecast versus 764 enrolled; in grades 9-12 1,446 pupils were forecast versus 1,438 enrolled. Dr. Dumais also referred those present to the Amity enrollment and history projection graph on the last page of the report (page 122 of the Board packet). There was discussion regarding the impact of these enrollment figures for the future.

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

Motion by Ms. Russo, 2nd by Ms. Cohen to award the contract for HVAC upgrades at Amity Middle School, Bethany Campus, to Controlled Air, Inc., of Branford, Connecticut for the price of \$159,683.

Ms. Lumas recommended that the bid process be waived. She noted this price is \$30,000 less than anticipated and it is the first bonding project. Ms. Russo stated that the Facilities Committee recommends that this be approved; it was noted that this vendor is on the approved vendor list. It is also noted that there will be considerable cost savings with the use of our in-house electrician on this project.

Vote unanimous

Motion carried

E. Discussion of Monthly Financial Statements

Ms. Lumas highlighted the favorable forecast of \$195,000 in line 15, the transfer account. The Superintendent plans to ask the Amity Finance Committee and Amity Board of Education at their August 2017 meetings to consider his request to transfer these funds from the unspent fund balance into the reserve for capital and nonrecurring expenditures prior to closing the books for this fiscal year.

F. Director of Finance and Administration Approved Transfers Under \$3,000**G. Other****1. Bonding update**

Ms. Lumas stated that the bond sale took place on Thursday, January 5th resulting in savings of approximately \$522,000 over the life of the bond. If there are substantial savings that might be had in the future, the Finance team will look to take advantage of those savings.

2. Fuel cell update

Dr. Dumais stated that the fuel cell and heat exchanger are both up and running. A ribbon-cutting ceremony is scheduled for January 23rd at 11 am. The engineering for the microgrid has been completed and work will be done in the spring and summer of 2017.

6. Policy Item 6.B.1. was considered first.

B. Second read of the following policy recommendations:

1. 9123, 9124, 9127, 9132.2, 9132.3, 9132.41, 9132.5, 9212, 9240, 9250, 9271, 9272, 9311, 9312, 9313, 9314, 9321, 9322, 9325.3, 9330, 9340, 9360, 9400

Motion by Ms. Cohen, 2nd by Ms. Urbano to accept the policy recommendations as listed above.

Vote unanimous

Motion carried

A. First read of the following policy recommendations:

- 9125, 9126, 9130, 9131, 9132, 9132.4, 9133, 9140, 9150, 9160, 9200, 9220, 9221, 9222, 9230, 9260, 9270 and 9273

There was some discussion by the Board regarding policies in this list that were rejected by the Policy Committee and whether or not those rejected policies need to come before the Board (it was noted that 9 of these are recommended and 9 were rejected); after discussion it was decided that these rejected policies should indeed come before the Board and in the future these will be listed separately as recommended or rejected.

B. Second read of the following policy recommendations:

2. 9132.6

Motion by Ms. McCreven, 2nd by Mr. Stirling to amend the agenda to indicate that this is a first read of policy 9132.6, not a second read.

There was discussion and referencing of policies and parliamentary procedure regarding first and second readings.

Vote Unanimous

Motion carried

Motion by Ms. McCreven, 2nd by Ms. Russo to table consideration of the Policy Committee's recommendation to change bylaw 9132.6 to a future date and not send it back to next Policy Committee meeting.

Vote 2 favor (Ms. McCreven and Ms. Russo), Mr. Browe abstained, 8 opposed

Motion failed

Motion by Ms. Russo, 2nd by Mr. Browe to amend the agenda to consider suspension of one word in policy 9132.6.

There was lengthy discussion regarding policy 9132.6. Mr. Hurley referenced Bylaw 9312 (formulation, Adoption, Amendment of Bylaws) and read it to the Board. Dr. Dumais referenced Board bylaw 9314 "Suspension of Policies, Bylaws and Regulations" which he read to the Board.

Vote 8 in favor, Ms. McCreven opposed, Ms. Berke and Mr. Hurley abstained

Motion carried

Motion by Mr. Browe, 2nd by Ms. Esposito to suspend the use of the word “will” and replace it with the word “may” for the period of 2017 only in order to give the Board considerable time to check the validity of the policy or decide on any future changes of policy 9132.6.

There was further discussion regarding policy 9132.6 and this motion.

As chairman of the Finance Committee, Mr. Stirling spoke in favor of this motion and encouraged all Board members to vote in favor of it.

Vote 10 in favor, Ms. McCreven opposed (Chairman did not vote)

Motion carried

7. Personnel – Negotiations have concluded with a tentative agreement.

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

11. Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Cohen, 2nd by Ms. Urbano to adjourn at 8:45 pm

Vote unanimous

Motion carried

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth E. Natzel, Recording Clerk

Thomas Hurley, Secretary