

1 Amherst School Board

2 March 27, 2014

3
4 ATTENDANCE

5
6 Amherst School Board

7 Peg Bennett, Lucienne Foulks, Amy Facey, and Paul Prescott

8
9 Administrative Team

10 Peter Warburton, Gerry St. Amand, Porter Dodge, Betty Shankel, Nicole Heimarck

11
12 Minute Taker

13 Beth Penney

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15 ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

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17 Mr. Warburton called the meeting to order at 6:31pm. He welcomed all of the students,
18 parents and staff in the audience.

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20 Ms. Bennett stated that the meetings would be taken off-line for the next three months.
21 She welcomed people to come to the meetings for the next three months to see the
22 initiatives that are being worked on at the schools. The board will be back online in the
23 fall.

24
25 Ms. Bennett and the board thanked Steve Coughlan for the last 6 years of taping the
26 meetings and putting them online.

27
28 Mr. Warburton opened the floor for nominations for the board Chair.

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30 **Mr. Prescott nominated Ms. Foulks for Chair. The vote was unanimous.**

31
32 Ms. Foulks asked for nominations for Vice Chair.

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34 **Ms. Facey nominated Ms. Bennett for Vice Chair. The vote was unanimous.**

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36 Ms. Foulks asked for nominations for Secretary.

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38 **Ms. Bennett nominated Ms. Facey for Secretary. The vote was unanimous.**

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40 Ms. Foulks asked for a motion for the appointment of Jan Bunker for Deputy Treasurer.

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42 **Ms. Bennett made a motion to appoint Jan Bunker for Deputy Treasurer. Ms.**
43 **Facey seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.**

44
45 **Mr. Prescott made a motion to close the organization meeting. Ms. Facey seconded**
46 **the motion and the vote was unanimous.**

47 CALL TO ORDER

48 Ms. Foulks called the meeting to order at 6:37pm.

49 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

50 **Spelling Bee, Geography Bee, and Invention Convention Winners**

51 Mr. St. Amand introduced Katy Kennedy and Marilyn St. George. They introduced Isabel
52 Walton the winner of the Spelling Bee and the runner-up Jennifer Korkuc.

53 Isabell discussed the Spelling Bee and the process she went through in order to qualify
54 and study for the Spelling Bee. She also discussed the day of the actual Spelling Bee.
55 She also discussed the State Spelling Bee and the words she was given.

56 Mr. St. Amand introduced Becky Ladeau, the coordinator of the Geography Bee. She
57 introduced Jack Dermody, who won the Geography Bee. Together they explained the
58 process of the Geography Bee and what it was like on the day of the Geography Bee.

59 Mr. St. Amand introduced Ms. McIntyre, the coordinator of the Invention Convention.
60 She explained the event and stated that 100 students participated. Audrey Littlefield, 3rd
61 grader, explained her invention, which attaches to the shopping cart to hold things. Ian
62 Birse and James Zaolie, 4th grade, worked as partners. They invented the Safety Sports
63 Solution that Saves Safety Light. The boys explained their invention and what it was like
64 to work with a partner. They also discussed the State competition.

65 **Principal's Reports**

66 Ms. Facey asked Mr. Dodge to discuss the painting happening at AMS.

67 Mr. Dodge discussed how the school is becoming brighter. Students, teachers, and the
68 community painted four rooms the 1st week. The next week, 3 rooms were painted.
69 Seven rooms are painted. There are 18 rooms are signed up to be painted. The rooms
70 look really nice and the students are very proud of their work. He thanked Ms. Foulks
71 and Ms. Bennett for the idea.

72 Ms. Foulks stated that the idea was from the surveys from staff, students, and community.
73 The students especially discussed that they wanted more color. She thanked Mr. Dodge
74 for the support. The kids are fantastic and are so excited, careful, and considerate.

75 Mr. Warbruton stated that this is a great social opportunity also for the students.

76 Mr. Dodge discussed the Theater club performances, which were very impressive. He
77 stated that the recent Parent Partnership meeting looked at transition to the high school.
78 Staff from SHS gave presentations and answered questions. There were 75-100 people
79 there, and they asked great questions. The Pennies for Patients has raised \$1600 in a few
80 weeks.

81 Mr. Dodge discussed the Academic Awards. He has gotten feedback from administration
82 and staff. These awards are going away June of 2015. The school will still reward the
83 children, but the process will change. The Academic Awards will be phased out over the
84 next two years.

85 Mr. Warburton stated that is a good transition to phasing the awards out.

86 Ms. Bennett stated that she was at the Wells Public Speaking and the kids were amazing.
87 She stated that she was delighted that the 3rd and 4th grade students got to go to the
88 symphony and hopes this happen every year.

89 Mr. Warburton discussed the reflection from the students after being at the symphony.
90 Their work was excellent and showed that the kids loved the symphony.

91 **PUBLIC TIME**

92 No public comment.

93 **CONSENT AGENDA**

94 Ms. Bennett pulled the minutes.

95 Ms. Bennett asked to change line 100: change 40 to 20.

96 Ms. Bennett asked for a follow-up about questions that were in last month's minutes.

97 Mr. Dodge explained where the \$500.00 donation was going for Science and
98 Mathematics. The money is being used for STEM and inexpensive tools and supplies for
99 the forces, energy and motion units. A small dishwasher to clean test tubes and other
100 measuring equipment will also be purchased.

101 Ms. Shankel explained the rebate from PSNH. PSNH offers incentives for better energy
102 efficiency. The lighting in the entry way at AMS improved. The improvement cost was
103 \$17,000. PSNH gave AMS a grant for \$4200 towards that project. This is a fantastic
104 program and the SAU has been taking advantage of these grants. The new technology is
105 more energy efficient and there is a pay back as well.

106 Mr. Prescott made a motion to accept the consent agenda containing the amended
107 minutes from February, the Treasurer's report for February 2014, Budget transfer,
108 Donation to Student Activities: \$62.50 donated by Jason Nurmi for Kindergarten
109 enrichment, \$25.54 donated by Jason Nurmi for Kindergarten enrichment, \$87.50
110 donated by Jason Nurmi for Kindergarten enrichment, \$25 from Westat, Donation to
111 General Fund: \$395.00 to Martha Wagner Memorial, Rebate to the General Fund: \$960
112 from Market Velocity, Inc./HP Catalyst for Change, Retirement request, Leave of
113 absence request. Ms. Facey seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

114

115 **Board Commitments**

116 Ms. Bennett stated that she is continuing to write the budget manual.

117 Mr. Warbruton discussed Strategic Planning. The next meeting is on Tuesday. There will
118 be a meeting on Saturday, April 12th. There will be speaker who will discuss how to
119 support students in the 21st century. There are many people invited to that day to hear the
120 presentations and the board will work in sub committees. The work is starting to become
121 more active and they are hoping to have a draft by August.

122 Ms. Facey discussed Inspirational and Effective Teaching. The pilot study, Thoughtful

123 Classroom, is underway with two formal classroom observations and teachers/ observers
124 will have pre and post meeting. At the April committee meeting, they will fine-tune the
125 survey to gather data from the participants. They will review feedback in May and then
126 will make a recommendation to the boards.

127 Ms. Facey discussed the work around the State Standards for Literacy. There are many
128 initiatives progressing and documents that give the framework for the work that has
129 already been done. The schools will use existing instructional materials and will use
130 tools to help the teachers align their lessons with the new standards. There will be a
131 professional to help teachers to align and implement instructional shifts. Teachers have
132 been given a resource tool kit and a vast array of documents and information about I39
133 also.

134 Ms. Bennett asked about the training around how to use the current resources and asked if
135 teachers went too. She stated it is great to re-use resources.

136 Ms. Heimark stated that the SAU got a \$25,000 grant to send teachers to several
137 trainings. 16 teachers attended the Student Achievement Partners training to help to
138 implement standards. The AMS team looked at the core reading program and worked to
139 align them to the Common Core. They also looked at honors work and the role of the
140 teacher to design rigorous curriculum. The Elementary team will be attending an event in
141 April. This training will help teachers to use authentic literature and use work from 2-3
142 grade levels above their grade level to design lessons to align to the Common Core.

143 Mr. Prescott stated that the technology committee is working with Peter and Bruce to find
144 time for I39 instruction in the professional development schedule. It is important for
145 teachers to understand how to post homework and know what is required.

146 **PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS**

147 Elementary and Middle School excellence

148 Ms. Foulks introduced the audit of school activities and yearly events that Mr. St. Amand
149 and Mr. Dodge put together.

150 Mr. Warbruton discussed students in Middle School and how the students start being
151 interested in things they might want to do as a career. There is large importance in after-
152 school programing especially for middle school students. He discussed experiential
153 learning outside of the classroom. He discussed barriers for after-school programs. The
154 idea is to look at what is offered today for programing and where the board would like to
155 go with the programming.

156 Mr. Dodge discussed the enrichment events offered to the children and the school would
157 like to see more. He highlighted and explained some of the events and where the money
158 has come from.

159 Mr. Dodge explained the Family Album and Heritage Lunch. The students do research
160 about their families and then have a luncheon including food from different backgrounds.
161 The Living Voices is where PTA brings speakers in to discuss what they have
162 experienced. The Breakfast of Giving, brought food in for SHARE or the Animal Rescue
163 League. They raised a lot of money this year and it was a great morning.

164 The board and Mr. Dodge discussed gardens at the school and how supportive and
165 wonderful the Amherst Garden Club is.

166 Mr. Dodge discussed the budget restrictions and how to look at other sources for money.

167 Mr. Dodge discussed the speaker, Valarie Tutson, who has been coming for many years.
168 She can take a role and she never comes out of the role. Recently she has been coming as
169 Harriet Tubman. This is a PTA funded and they fund enrichment program in many ways.

170 Mr. St. Amand recognized Mary Thibeault and Kathy Johnson who put the presentation
171 and documents together. Many of the Elementary events are during school hours. He
172 discussed many of the events that happen at Clark and Wilkins.

173 Mr. St. Amand stated that they are always looking to change things up and the
174 administration does not get to go every year to each event. The PTA is very receptive to
175 other ideas. He discussed “The Bubble Guy” who just visited the Mont Vernon Village
176 School.

177 Mr. Warburton stated that this is a great list of activities for K-8. The afternoon
178 programing is extraordinary. The presentation includes links for more information about
179 the importance of after school programing for students.

180 Mr. St. Amand asked about posting the presentation on the website so the community can
181 see the lists.

182 Mr. Warburton stated that would be done.

183 Ms. Foulks stated that she has been working to reorganize the data into different
184 categories, including looking at how the programs are funded, how many programs for
185 each grade level, etc. She will continue to work on it and will send the work out to the
186 board. There is money in the budget to create more opportunities for kids. The board and
187 administration should look at what programs could be switched out and if the schools are
188 maximizing the potential of the programs. She hopes that at the April or May meeting to
189 have the principals come back with some ideas of what to change, new programs ideas,
190 or how to take current activities further. She stated that there are very few programs in
191 Math and Technology.

192 Ms. Facey discussed having more Math programs at the elementary level and Robotics
193 for AMS.

194 Ms. Foulks stated that afterschool programs are not just to keep the kids busy but also to
195 make connections and form ties with in the school community and the outside
196 community. The programs also help students apply their learning.

197 Mr. Warburton would also like to discuss sports at AMS and the funding for the sports.

198 Mr. Dodge stated that the principals could come with a wish list in May and then work on
199 what can be funded.

200 Ms. Facey stated the board should definitely look at sports and how they are structured.
201 There is a wealth of volunteers in the clubs in the area. Maybe the board can be creative

202 to allow more children to participate in sports.

203 Mr. Warburton is giving out a parent survey in April about athletics and will be able to
204 share the results.

205 Ms. Foulks asked the principals for the cost breakdown for the sports and activities.

206 Mr. Warburton asked the board and principals to look out over the next 3 years.

207 Inspirational and Effective Teaching: Middle School Homework Policy

208 Mr. Dodge started a committee to discuss grading policies, but determined that this needs
209 to be a prek-12 discussion. For now the committee is working to have a consistent
210 Homework policy. At each grade level the teachers are working to have a consistent
211 homework policy. For the open house in the fall, AMS will have a commitment to a
212 homework policy.

213 Mr. Warburton stated that the board would see the policy at the August meeting.

214 **ACTION ITEMS**

215 MS-22 signing

216 Ms. Shankel stated that this is part of the report after the election that is sent to the
217 Department of Revenue and Department of Education. It helps to set the tax rate and
218 needs a signature of the board members.

219 Ms. Bennett made a motion to authorize the business administrator and board members to
220 sign the MS-22. Mr. Prescott seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

221 Ms. Facey made a motion to go into NON-PUBLIC SESSION under RSA 91-A:3 II.
222 (a)(b)(c) at 8:18pm. Ms. Bennett seconded the motion and the roll call was all yes.

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