

1 Amherst School Board  
2 Thursday, April 18, 2013

3  
4 ATTENDANCE

5  
6 Amherst School Board

7 Lucienne Foulks, Amy Facey, James Manning, and Paul Prescott

8  
9 Administrative Team

10 Peter Warburton, Gerry St. Amand, Porter Dodge, Renea Sparks, Betty Shankel and  
11 Nicole Heimareck

12  
13 Minute Taker

14 Beth Penney  
15

16 CALL TO ORDER

17 Ms. Foulks called the meeting to order at 6:32pm.

18 ANNOUNCEMENTS

19 Principals' reports

20 Mr. Warburton stated that the play at AMS was a great presentation and the respect  
21 demonstrated by the students was impressive. The science presentations today were  
22 equally impressive.

23 CIP Plan-Sarah Marchant, Town of Amherst Community Development Director

24 Ms. Foulks stated that Sarah could not attend the meeting but there is a need for a  
25 representative and alternative for the Capital Improvement Plan committee. Peg is  
26 currently the representative and is happy to continue.

27 Committee Assignments

28 Ms. Foulks stated that all committee assignments are the same as last year.

29 PUBLIC TIME

30 No public present.

31 CONSENT AGENDA

32 **Ms. Facey made a motion to accept the consent agenda containing the minutes for**

33 **March 28, 2013, Treasurer's report for March 2013, and the Unanticipated**  
34 **Revenue- Donation to AMS Student Activity Fund - \$147.00 from Hannaford Helps**  
35 **Schools D. Budget transfer. Mr. Manning seconded the motion and the vote was**  
36 **unanimous.**

37 PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS

38 World Language

39 Ms. Foulks stated that this presentation would be postponed to next month's  
40 meeting.

41

42 FY13 3rd Quarter Financial Summary

43 Ms. Shankel stated that there is projected additional revenue because the tuition came in  
44 higher than estimated and the cat. aide is also higher than anticipated. There is \$143,000  
45 in total additional revenue. For expenditures there have been savings in salaries and  
46 benefits, purchases for supplies and equipment, and legal fees in the amount of \$175,000.  
47 The total surplus is estimated at \$320,000, but \$80,000 will come out for the warrant  
48 article for the Facility Maintenance Fund. The district is on track for what was estimated  
49 to return to the voters.

50 Technology update

51 Bruce Chakrin stated he would speak in depth at the May SAU board meeting. The topics  
52 will include Office 365, email, Sharepoint, changes with the website, changes with the  
53 learning management system, and BYOD (bring your own device).

54 Mr. Chakrin stated that for the email services they would be moved to the cloud, which  
55 will save money on data resources. Five virtual servers will not have to be run, which will  
56 save server space and data space. Microsoft will provide more data space for all email  
57 users and this will eliminate the need to replace software every few years.

58 Mr. Chakrin stated that for the website the SAU has been using a content management  
59 system called Ectron, which has been challenging at times. The SAU needs to do its own  
60 upgrades and when browser versions change maintenance has to be done. The website is  
61 moving to eChalk which will handle the content management and the website content  
62 will come off the SAU servers and will be in the cloud. The websites will have new  
63 designs and each school and the SAU will have their own design, colors, texts and styles.  
64 The main pages will have rotating images and the SAU can distribute many licenses  
65 giving the responsibility for information to the stakeholders. This will allow the SAU  
66 and schools to maintain the websites better and keep them more up to date. The SAU  
67 will save money on support and the overall cost on yearly basis will be less. The districts  
68 will also get a little back from the federal government because they will be e-rate eligible.

69 Mr. Chakrin introduced I39, Its learning, which is the next step in the online learning  
70 system evolution. Angel was purchased by Blackboard and the support and development  
71 for Angel has been put towards Blackboard Learn. Over a year ago the SAU started to

72 look around for a new system. There will be savings with I39 and the schools can do  
73 different things with this system. There is a more modern interface and it is easier to use.  
74 The system has been tested by a pilot group of teachers and the SAU has received very  
75 positive feedback. Mr. Chakrin showed the board some of the functions, including video  
76 conferences, drop boxes, folders, files, etc.

77 The board and Mr. Chakrin discussed that the system will be similar for students and  
78 works with all browsers. It is compatible with the Android, iPad and other tablets/  
79 phones, although there are a few functions that students may need to use a non-tablet  
80 device for. The system has both video and voice recording options and Mr. Chakrin  
81 discussed how these functions may be used. The students and teachers will be trained on  
82 the new system. They discussed ways to give parents some training also, including  
83 workshops and video lessons on the school's website.

84 Ms. Heimarck stated that last week she had a conversation with the executive board of  
85 the PTA to partner with the SAU to give some professional development opportunities to  
86 parents including the new Math curriculum and Common Core Standards. The idea is to  
87 bring the PTA into these discussions to better support parents and children at home.

88 Mr. Chakrin stated that parents will have a login and there are video tutorials and help  
89 files online. He will look and see what is available and make sure parents know what is  
90 available.

91 Ms. Foulks asked Mr. Chakrin to come to a meeting and give the board a tutorial. They  
92 could video tape that meeting and put the video on the school's websites.

93 Ms. Heimarck stated that the new website will have streaming capabilities. They have  
94 trainings for all kinds of things that the schools video tape already, so those videos can  
95 then be posted on the website.

96 Mr. Warburton stated that this would give people more access to learn when they have  
97 the time.

98 The board and Mr. Chakrin discussed that the future of education maybe "Flip  
99 Classrooms" where students look at lessons online and then at school the teachers are  
100 mentors and coaches to further that learning. The I39 system does have development  
101 happening so it will evolve with education and technology changes. There is a grade  
102 book and parent portal built into this system, but they have not discussed yet if it will  
103 replace the current parent portal.

104 Mr. Warburton stated that he sees I39 as a one-stop shopping center, so kids only have to  
105 go to one place. He does see the current Parent Portal disappearing and switching to I39  
106 in the future.

107 Mr. Chakrin stated that with in the next 60 days I39 would be implemented. The teachers  
108 then have time to migrate materials from Angel to I39. Most things will migrate but not  
109 all of the content. The contract with Angel is up in July, so this is the system parents will  
110 see in the fall.

111 Ms. Heimarck stated that like with the new Math curriculum the administration and a  
112 pilot group of teachers is outlining what all classrooms should be using year 1, year 2,  
113 and so on. The expectations will be made public when they are completed.

114 Ms. Facey asked for regular updates as the schools move towards implementation of I39.

115 Mr. Warburton stated that the next update will be at the May SAU meeting and they will  
116 update the board in June also. He stated that this is a big deal and thanked Mr. Chakrin  
117 for all of his hard work.

118 Ms. Foulks thanked Mr. Chakrin for bringing this forward and saving the district money  
119 at the same time.

120 Mr. Chakrin discussed BYOD. He stated that businesses and schools are struggling with  
121 this. A 1:1 ration would be perfect, along with kids having the same device. Schools are  
122 starting to encourage BYOD and are helping teachers cope with this. Most AMS and  
123 SHS students have at least an ipod, some have a Kindle Fire or an iPad. The technology  
124 staff has started working on helping teachers deal with all of these devices in classrooms  
125 and the schools need to build the wireless infrastructure also. The board will hear more  
126 about this in the next months and years. The district is looking forward to being able to  
127 support BYOD as it grows. Mr. Chakrin stated that they have not figured out what will  
128 be needed. The plan at SHS is to have an access point in every classroom, but that may  
129 not be needed at AMS. They are trying to keep this as cost neutral as possible. The  
130 schools will not need as many servers in future because they have gone to virtual servers.  
131 This is already saving money in server replacement. The district has been working on a  
132 technology plan and will bring the plan to the board next month. It is a different kind of  
133 plan then has been given in the past and it will have a budget projection included.

134 DISCUSSION ITEM

135 Policies

136 Ms. Foulks stated that this is a second reading and the board can vote on all three policies  
137 at once.

138 **Mr. Prescott made a motion to accept the polices BEB- Emergency Board Meetings,**  
139 **EBBD – Indoor Air Quality, JLCK – Special Physical Health Needs of Student as**  
140 **written. Mr. Manning seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.**

141 Mr. Warburton stated that at the next meeting the board would hear presentations about  
142 world language, the technology plan, and assessment.

143 **Mr. Manning made a motion to go into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II. (a)**  
144 **(b) (c) at 7:13pm. Ms. Facey seconded the motion and the role call was all yes.**