

1 **Amherst School Board**
2 **November 30, 2010**

3
4 **Attendance**

5
6 **Amherst School Board:**

7 Nancy Head, Peter Maresco, Peg Bennett, Rob Graybill, Lucienne Foulks

8
9 **Administrative Team:**

10 Mary Athey Jennings, Nancy McGuire, Elizabeth Shankel, Porter Dodge, Gerry St.
11 Amand, Renea Sparks

12
13 **Minutes Recorder:** Rob Graybill

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15
16 **Non-Public Session**

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18 Minutes taken by Mr. Graybill

19
20 Ms. Foulks motioned to go into non-public session. Ms. Bennett seconded the
21 motion. Unanimous roll call vote was taken and Board entered into non-public
22 session at 5:32.

23 Board discussed request for Manifest Hardship Request.

24 Ms. Foulks motioned to come out of non-public session. Mr. Maresco seconded the
25 motion. Unanimous roll call vote was taken and Board came out of non-public
26 session at 5:57.

27
28 **Call to Order**

Call to Order

29
30 Ms. Head called the Board meeting to order at 6:07.

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32 **Announcements**

Announcements

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34 **Public Time**

Public Time

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36 No public present.

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38 **Principal's Report**

39 Ms. Bennett questioned if only differentiated instruction trainers attended the
40 session with Maria Banks. Mr. Dodge indicated it was more than just the DI trainers
41 in attendance. Ms. Bennett also asked questions regarding the P MEC day, which Mr.
42 St. Amand answered.

43 Ms. Head thanked Kathy McIntyre for all she does, including spearheading the
44 SHARE program. Ms. Head also asked about concerns from parents regarding the
45 amount of non-instructional day in November. Mr. St. Amand indicated it was

46 driven by the calendar in November and could not be avoided, although he
47 understood the concerns expressed.

48
49 Ms. Head reviewed the Budget Committee assignments.

50
51 **Consent Agenda**

Consent Agenda

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53 **Ms. Head called for a motion to accept the agenda including the**
54 **minutes from the prior meeting, which as seconded by Ms. Bennett.**
55 **Motion passed with three yes votes and two abstains.**

56
57 **Presentations**

Presentations

58
59 Dr. Jennings reviewed the budget presentation. Mr. St. Amand thanked those who
60 helped put the budget together. He further noted that if Clark Wilkins does not
61 make AYP goals it would mean a year 3 SINI, and if the goals were met it would
62 mean a year 2 SINI, but the results were not yet completed. Mr. St. Amand reviewed
63 enrollment projections noting a reduction in first, second and fourth grades which
64 results in dropping a classroom for each. This equated to a reduction in two
65 positions with one being transferred to a full time Math Interventionist.

66 Mr. St. Amand also highlighted that the pre-school proposal was not reflected in the
67 budget numbers as it had not yet been approved by the Board.

68 Ms. Bennett questioned the student teacher ratio as a result of the decrease in
69 classes. Mr. St. Amand stated the ratio would still be within the target of eighteen
70 students per teacher. Mr. St. Amand further highlighted that the budget would
71 include three full-time Kindergarten teachers, seven first grade teachers, seven
72 second grade teachers, seven third grade teachers and seven fourth grade teachers.
73 Mr. Dodge presented the AMS budget, indicating the fifth and sixth grade classes are
74 currently heavy, even with the drop in students. There would be no drop in
75 teachers in order to support the twenty students to one teacher ratio. Mr. Dodge
76 indicated a shifting in staff to support a Math Interventionist and noted there would
77 not be an add to staff. The position would be dedicated to improving those scores
78 for students with a SINI/DINI designation. There would be a reduction of one
79 Special Education teacher.

80 Ms. Head questioned the Math Interventionist position and that this had not been
81 brought before the Board. Dr. Jennings indicated the position itself had already
82 been in existence through funds from the AARA and Title 1 funds but that these
83 funds were expected to be reduced. The District would be assuming the cost of the
84 two Math Interventionalist FTEs.

85 Ms. Heimark gave a brief history of the position and how it mirrored the Literacy
86 Coach position which provides support for teachers in literacy. The Math Coach
87 position was intended to provide the same support but that these resources were
88 being pulled in many directions and also involved in direct student services beyond
89 the support for teachers. The Math Interventionalist positions would be to support
90 direct student services, freeing up the time of the Math Coaches to move actively
91 support teachers.

92 Mr. Graybill questioned if the Expendable Trust fund normally has had a historical
93 funding amount at the \$100,000 level. Ms. Shankel indicated that yes, it normally
94 has been funded at that amount or higher and is used to support emergency facility
95 needs such as a partial roof replacement that occurred at Wilkins last year.
96 Ms. Head asked the Ways and Means Committee in attendance introduce themselves
97 and the other members of the Committee. Ms. Bennett asked that any questions that
98 Ways and Means had provided to the Administration for responses also be shared
99 with the Board once the responses were completed.

100

101 **Action Items**

102

103 Dr. Jennings presented the school calendar proposal to move to a minutes-
104 based versus the current days-based calendar. Ms. Foulks motioned to
105 authorize the Administration to proceed to implement the Calendar Committee
106 recommendations. Ms. Bennett seconded the motion. The motion passed
107 unanimously.

Action Items

108 Dr. Jennings presented the pre-school proposal with support from Ms. Sparks. Mr.
109 Maresco questioned what was meant by a “typical student” to which Ms. Sparks
110 explained that these are students not on an IEP.

111 Mr. Graybill questioned that if the number of IEP students enrolled in pre-school
112 dropped to a lower than anticipated level if it would have any impact on the ability
113 to offer the program. Mr. Prescott from the Ways and Means Committee added that
114 if the number was low would it still allow the program to be self-sustaining and not
115 impact the budget numbers presented. Ms. Sparks indicated that the program
116 would be self-sustaining and any space would be filled with typical students.

117 Mr. Prescott further questioned if the enrollment was not a projected would the
118 Administration be able to adjust staffing appropriately. Ms. Sparks indicated the
119 Administration would be able to adjust staffing accordingly but was not concerned
120 given the survey results that showed a strong interest by parents to send their child
121 to the program if offered. Mr. Prescott further questioned if the range in pricing was
122 in-line with other local programs at \$50 per week to which Ms. Sparks indicated that
123 the Administration had reviewed pricing of other local providers and the pricing
124 was within the range.

125 Ms. Head asked how many of the current 11 projected IEP students are full time
126 students. Ms. Sparks indicated that it is unclear at this time since there have been
127 no formal enrollments yet but the target was 50% of the total students would be
128 those requiring special services.

129 Ms. Bennett inquired if the staffing assumptions accommodate the projected
130 students to which the Administration responded that it does.

131 Ms. Foulks asked if the District had the appropriate space for the program. Ms.
132 Sparks and Mr. St. Amand indicated yes.

133 Ms. Head asked if the local private teachers are certified and is that a requirement of
134 the staff for the program within the District. Ms. Sparks indicated in the questioning
135 she performed of other providers that in fact many are certified and this is an
136 expectation as part of the RFP.

137 Mr. Prescott questioned if the program would displace current students if approved.
138 Mr. St. Amand responded that it would not impact current students.
139 Ms. Foulks asked if there was an increase in enrollment, would a first grade then
140 need to be added. Mr. St. Amand responded that if there was such a need that
141 Kindergarten and pre-school would remain at Clark and that additional first grades
142 would be added at Wilkins to accommodate the need should it arise.
143 Ms. Head raised the concern that an increase in Kindergarten enrollment would
144 present an issue because of the physical space requirements in the classroom size
145 needed. Mr. St. Amand noted the concern and said this would be addressed if the
146 situation arose.
147 Mr. Maresco asked how the request for a public-private partnership would impact
148 the process. Ms. Sparks indicated that the District did not require a partnership to
149 implement the program but that it was being explored through an RFP to help
150 produce cost-savings.
151 **Ms. Foulks motioned to accept the proposal to move forward to implement the**
152 **pre-school program pending appropriate number of special education**
153 **students would enroll. Ms. Bennett seconded the motion which passed**
154 **unanimously.**
155 **Ms. Foulks motioned to accept policy JFAB. Mr. Maresco seconded the motion**
156 **which passed unanimously.**

157
158 **Discussion Items** **Discussion items**

159
160 Dr. Jennings presented the bullying policy which was first read at the
161 SAU Board, indicating it needed to be passed by the summer due to state statute.
162 The policy now includes language for cyber-bullying and no retaliation. There were
163 no questions from the Board.
164 Ms. Head highlighted the new approach bullying that was recently presented at a
165 local conference. The approach focuses on the community response versus the
166 individual students involved. Ms. Sparks was aware of the approach and indicated it
167 was also being evaluated to determine if it should be implemented in the District.
168 Dr. Jennings presented policy JKAA. Ms. Sparks highlighted changes to the policy
169 raised at the SAU Board. Mr. Maresco raised concerns regarding how students over
170 the age of 18 would be considered a parent. The Board discussed the issue. Ms.
171 Sparks will research the RSA and definition and provide further information back to
172 the Board.

173
174 **Ms. Bennett motioned to go into non-public session for the purposes of**
175 **discussing a sabbatical request, retirements and the request for manifest**
176 **educational hardship transfer. The motion was seconded by Ms. Foulks. A roll**
177 **call vote ensued and the Board went into non-public at 7:50.**

178
179 The Board discussed the request for sabbatical as presented by the Administration
180 for a half-year sabbatical starting on July, 1, 2011.
181

182 The Board discussed the retirement request presented under Article 14.4 of the
183 CBA.

184
185 Board discussed the request for a manifest educational hardship transfer as
186 presented by the Administration.

187
188 The Board also discussed Administrator compensation.

189
190 **Ms. Bennett made a motion to come out of non-public session, which was**
191 **seconded by Mr. Maresco. A unanimous roll call vote ensued and the Board**
192 **came out of non-public session at 9:10.**

193 **Ms. Bennett motioned to accept the sabbatical request as presented by the**
194 **Superintendent. Mr. Maresco seconded the motion. The motion passed**
195 **unanimously.**

196
197 **Ms. Foulks motioned to accept funding 4 retirees under Article 14.4 effective**
198 **June 30, 2011. Mr. Maresco seconded the motion. The motion passed**
199 **unanimously.**

200
201 **Ms. Head motioned to accept the request for a manifest educational hardship**
202 **transfer with the provisions as outlined in the memo dated November 23,**
203 **2010 from the Superintendent presented to the Board. Mr. Maresco seconded**
204 **the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

205
206 **Adjourn**

Adjourn

207
208 **Mr. Graybill made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Maresco**
209 **seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the board**
210 **adjourned at 9:14 p.m.**

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