

1 **Amherst School Board Meeting**  
2 **Thursday, March 24, 2011**  
3  
4

5 **Attendance**  
6

7 **Amherst School Board:**

8 Peter Maresco, Peg Bennett, Lucienne Foulks, James Manning, Andrew Zell  
9

10 **Administrative Team:**

11 Nicole Heimarck, Elizabeth Shankel, Porter Dodge, Gerry St. Amand, Renea Sparks,  
12 Patty Wons, Pam Gross, Janet Davis  
13

14 **Minutes Taker**

15 Beth Penney  
16  
17  
18

19 **Organizational Meeting**  
20

21 **Call to Order**  
22

23 Ms. Heimarck called the meeting to order at 6:02pm.  
24

25 Ms. Heimarck welcomed the two new board members, James Manning and Andrew  
26 Zell.  
27

28 **Election of School Board Officers**  
29

30 Ms. Foulks nominated Ms. Bennett for chairman and Mr. Maresco seconded the  
31 nomination.  
32

33 **Ms. Bennett was unanimously voted as the new chairman of the board.**  
34

35 Ms. Bennett took over running the meeting.  
36

37 Ms. Foulks nominated Mr. Maresco as Vice Chairman and Mr. Manning seconded the  
38 nomination.  
39

40 **Mr. Maresco was unanimously voted as the new vice chairman of the board.**  
41

42 Ms. Bennett nominated Ms. Foulks as secretary and Mr. Zell seconded the  
43 nomination.  
44

45 **Ms. Foulks was unanimously voted as the new secretary of the board.**  
46

47 Committee Assignments

48

49 Ms. Bennett asked the board to determine which committee they would like to be on  
50 and she would follow-up with everyone over the phone. At the next meeting, the  
51 board will present the committee assignments to the public.

52

53 Ms. Heimarck asked to assign a board member to the Calendar Committee because  
54 they will be meeting sooner than the next meeting.

55

56 Mr. Zell volunteered to be on the Calendar Committee.

57

58

59

**Regular Meeting**

60

**Call to Order**

61 **Call to Order**

62

63 Ms. Bennett called the meeting to order at 6:08pm.

64

65 **Announcements**

**Announcements**

66

67 Principal's Report

68

69 Ms. Foulks asked Mr. Dodge to discuss the peer leadership program.

70

71 Ms. Wons and Ms. Gross who lead the program stated that a peer leadership team  
72 with 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders was formed. The school is training the students in  
73 leadership skills and how to reach out to other students. They want the peer leaders  
74 to be there to support the students who are by standards. They have talked about  
75 how to help kids to step in. They are not asking kids to take over what adults do, but  
76 are training them to be courageous leaders and have a voice.

77

78 Mr. Zell asked about the possibility of Officer Knox leaving AMS as the resource  
79 officer. The board discussed this at length. Officer Knox does not want to leave  
80 AMS, but Chief Lions wants to see that position as a rotation. Mr. Dodge expressed  
81 how good Mr. Knox is and how well liked and respected he is by both students and  
82 staff. Mr. Zell wants to better understand Chief Lions reasoning behind this change.  
83 The board decided to invite Chief Lions to the next meeting to further discuss this  
84 matter.

85

86 Ms. Bennett stated that the middle school play was great and she thanked the  
87 community for their help. She stated that she thought it was great that kids were on  
88 WMUR in the culinary program. She asked Mr. Dodge to discuss the changes of the  
89 stepping up day to the high school.

90

91 Mr. Dodge stated they are trying to make the day better by adding a BBQ, trying to  
92 make the transition more seamless, and having guidance comes over before and  
93 after the day.

94

95 **Public Time**

**Public Time**

96

97 **Invention Convention Winners**

98

99 Mr. St. Amand introduced Kathy McIntyre who is the coordinator for the Invention  
100 Convention.

101

102 Logan Pettus' invention is up in Concord for the final Invention Convention. His  
103 invention is the "Comfy Baby Back Towel". It keeps the baby warm in the bath. He  
104 won 2<sup>nd</sup> place for his idea.

105

106 Jaclyn Donohue is a 4<sup>th</sup> grader, who has participated in the Invention Convention  
107 from K-4<sup>th</sup> grade. She discussed all her inventions. In K and 1<sup>st</sup> grade she received  
108 honorable mentions, in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade she got 2<sup>nd</sup> place and in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade she  
109 received honorable mentions.

110

111 Sisters, Sydney and Rachael Mazur invented the Headrietta because they have lots of  
112 hair stuff. They made an invention to put hair stuff, including elastics and  
113 headbands in an oatmeal can where you can take off the cover to put stuff in like  
114 hairspray and brushes inside and the can has pipe cleaner hair to hang elastics on.  
115 This invention helps to get rid of all the mess.

116

117 Sam Giarusso asked to allow the public to speak before the board went into Non-  
118 public session.

119

120 **Consent Agenda**

**Consent Agenda**

121

122 The Consent Agenda containing, February 24, 2011 minutes, February Treasurer's  
123 Report, and the Manifest was adopted.

124

125 **Presentations**

**Presentations**

126

127 **Review of FY12 Votes Budget**

128

129 Ms. Shankel went through the slides of the presentation. She reviewed the budget  
130 principles, the operating portion, which has an increase of 0.69% and the  
131 breakdown of this portion. She also reviewed and explained the revenue  
132 calculation, which is not voted on because all revenues are projections. The amount  
133 left over as of June 30, 2011 is estimated at \$235,322, which is usually 1% of the  
134 budget put forward. She stated that the state aide and pension numbers may  
135 change based on the legislature's decision.

136

137 Ms. Bennett asked if we expect changes to the federal aide.  
138  
139 Ms. Shankel replied, no, just in the state aide.  
140  
141 Ms. Shankel continued with the presentation, the budget is a \$0.08 increase for  
142 district tax rate, which does not include other warrant articles. She reviewed the  
143 collective bargaining agreement, which was put on as a warrant article. There was  
144 no agreement for this year and increases were zero. She reviewed the agreement  
145 parts and break down of the money items and costs. The tax impact adds additional  
146 \$0.20. The other warrant article was for the Facilities Expendable Trust, which is  
147 for facilities repair, maintenance, and improvement. The use of this money is  
148 determined by a committee and brought to the board with a recommendation and  
149 voted on. The tax impacts of this warrant article is \$0.03.  
150  
151 Mr. Manning asked about the reduction in staff of 2.85 and if this is planned attrition  
152 because of people retiring.  
153  
154 Ms. Shankel replied, yes, for certain positions. Normally some people leave or retire.  
155 The number is determined by the needs of the district and enrollments.  
156  
157 Ms. Sparks stated that the reduction of a Special Education position was not due to  
158 attrition.  
159  
160 Mr. Zell asked about a bubble of students for K this year.  
161  
162 Mr. St. Amand stated that they did expect a growth in K this year.  
163  
164 Calendar Options 2011-12  
165  
166 Ms. Heimarck directed the board to the memo from the Superintendent showing the  
167 items to discuss.  
168  
169 Current Calendar: to date there have been 6 weather days making the last day for  
170 Clark, Wilkins and AMS Friday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, and for SHS Monday June 27<sup>th</sup>. The  
171 administration wishes to not go into the last week in June because they are  
172 concerned about absences. A staff development day from May was moved to June to  
173 keep the last day as is. The board needs to decide whether or not to grant the  
174 superintended permission to submit a waiver on 180-day requirement to be  
175 changed to an hour based system. Currently, all schools exceed the required hours,  
176 but not the days. The SHS and MV school boards have granted Dr. Jennings  
177 permission to pursue a waiver.  
178  
179 The board discussed this issue at length. They were concerned about giving the  
180 superintendent blanket permission in case school is closed for flood or other  
181 weather related days for an extended period of time. The board discussed if this has  
182 been done before and the difference in why the schools could not just add minutes

183 to the day as has been done in the past. It was determined it is too late in the year to  
184 make up the days by adding minutes. The board decided to discuss this issue at the  
185 SAU board meeting next week before making a decision. They would table this  
186 action item till the April meeting.

187  
188 Calendar committee has created some innovative and alternative calendars. They  
189 have spent time seeking community and parent feedback. The 175 day hours based  
190 calendar proposal is dead because all employee organizations need to support the  
191 proposal and one did not support it. The committee has looked at a 180 day hours  
192 based calendar, similar to first proposal. The MV board is not in full support of this  
193 proposal because of the impact on instructional time. This is on the SAU meeting  
194 agenda to discuss examining 180 days hours based calendar.

195  
196 The board needs to act on the proposed calendar for next year 2011/ 2012. The  
197 SAU is required to file a calendar by April 1<sup>st</sup> with Department of Education.

198  
199 The administrative team and all of the employee organizations vetted the proposed  
200 calendar. They all support the proposed calendar. School would start before Labor  
201 Day and end June 14. The proposed calendar would be filed with the DOE but is not  
202 the official calendar because there are no late start days yet, and Professional  
203 Development dates are placeholders.

204  
205 Ms. Bennett asked what happens to the calendar when late starts are added.

206  
207 Ms. Heimarck replied that the late start days do not change instructional time and  
208 late starts are already accounted for.

209  
210 The board discussed if they decided on the hours vs. days calendar if they could  
211 change it after April 1<sup>st</sup> with the Department of Education. It was determined that  
212 they could, if the superintendent stated that was a possibility when submitting this  
213 proposed calendar.

214

215 **Action Items**

**Action Items**

216

217 **Calendar**

218

219 **Ms. Foulks made a motion to approve the proposed 2010/ 2011 180 days**  
220 **based calendar as written. Mr. Maresco seconded the motion and the vote was**  
221 **unanimous.**

222

223 **Public Time**

**Public Time**

224

225 Sam Giarusso, who has taught at AMS since 1977, spoke towards the potential for  
226 people to lose their jobs because of the pension legislation in Concord. He stated  
227 that the educational program delivered in Amherst would change. People have  
228 supported the budget and the educational program even though the elected officials

229 goal was to cut taxes and how they do it becomes political. The politics is to reduce  
230 state funding by 35%, which increases the budget by \$450,000 for the town. If the  
231 board decides to cut positions than the educational program will change and the  
232 people that will suffer are the children. He stated that our commitment is to our kids  
233 and that is important. He asked the board to think about the consequences.

234

235 Peter Densoyers thanked the board for the presentation to help in getting the  
236 budget passed. He stated that Sam put it well.

237

238 Mr. Zell made a motion to go into Non-Public Session under RSA 91- A:3 II. (a). Mr.  
239 Manning seconded the motion and the entire board participated in the roll call.

240

241 **Non-Public Session**

**Non-Public Session**

242

243 The board secretary, Ms. Foulks, took the following minutes.

244

245 The board reviewed proposals for consideration to address the governor's proposed  
246 budget and the impact it will have on the Amherst School District budget.

247

248 8:10 Drew Zell made a motion to come out of non-public session with Jim Manning  
249 second

250

251 Public Session 8:10 pm

252

253 Drew Zell made a motion to delay 2 math interventionist positions currently part of  
254 the budget and use the surplus of \$260,000 to address the potential shortfall due to  
255 the governor's proposed budget. Jim Manning second.

256

257 The board unanimously supported the motion.

258

259 Jim Manning made a motion to accept all nominated professional staff on 2 spread  
260 sheets.

261

261 Pete Maresco second.

262

262 Unanimous support by the board.

263

264 Betty Shankel needed the board to authorize the school board, the school district  
265 clerk and the superintendent to accept the MS-22 Appropriated Funds Report.

266

266 Peter Maresco made the motion to authorize with Drew Zell second. Unanimous  
267 vote to support.

268

269 Policy FF - 2nd Reading

270

271 Nicole reviewed the reasoning for the creation of the policy.

272

272 It will be moved to the next agenda in order to allow the new members to review the  
273 policy before a vote is taken.

274  
275 Manifest checkers were nominated for the FY-12 year.  
276 Lucienne Foulks will maintain the position on the manifest committee for another  
277 year with the addition of Drew Zell and Jim Manning for FY 11-12.  
278 Peter Maresco made the motion to nominate all 3 for the manifest committee.  
279 Peg Bennet second.  
280 Unanimous vote accept.  
281