

Amherst School Board
Thursday, February 18, 2016
Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Administrative Team: Peter Warburton- Superintendent, Betty Shankel – Business Administrator, Gerry St. Amand- Principal Clark/Wilkins School, Porter Dodge-Principal AMS, Christine Landwehrle- Director of Curriculum & Professional Development, and Meg Beauchamp- Director of Student Services.

Amherst School Board: Lucienne Foulks- Chair, Amy Facey- Vice President, Peg Bennett – Secretary, Jim Manning, and Paul Prescott

Minute Taker: Danae Marotta

Public: Ms. Emma Pyles- Award Recipient, Mr. Keith Trott- Foreman, Amherst Recreation Department, Ms. Lisa Eastland, Amherst NH.

I. CALL TO ORDER – Chair Lucienne Foulks

Ms. Lucienne Foulks called the Meeting to order at 6:06 pm.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Principals' reports

Principal Dodge discussed that he was honored for his 8th grade student, Ms. Emma Pyles, to receive the President's Service Award. He then read the Letter from President Obama. He noted that Ms. Pyles was a wonderful example of service.

Ms. Foulks congratulated Ms. Pyles and asked her how she came to receive this prestigious award.

Ms. Pyles discussed that it was part of a Girl Scout project and that Mr. Dodge helped her apply for the award.

The Board congratulated and thanked Ms. Emma Pyles.

Mr. Gerry St. Amand then discussed that they have 72 students registered for full-day kindergarten for the FY 17 School Year at Clark School as of Feb 15th 2016.

He noted that it is a high number and that last year in April enrollment was at 54. He noted that they are looking forward to having a good program and working on curriculum.

He discussed that families are excited and it is good news.

- 31 Ms. Foulks asked is that a percentage of people.
- 32 Mr. Gerry St. Amand discussed that they had mailed over 103 letters out to families.
- 33 He noted that some parents had wondered if there was a full day option, which there is not.
- 34 Ms. Facey asked Mr. St. Amand if he could talk more about the phasing in.
- 35 Mr. St. Amand discussed that they would turn it into trimesters. He added that it would be a
36 transitional and a gradual process to 1st grade. He discussed that he feels confident about full-
37 day kindergarten and that they surveyed staff and he is pleased with their expressed interest.
- 38 Mr. Jim Manning asked if the teachers have to be ECE certified.
- 39 Discussion ensued.
- 40 Ms. Bennett asked Mr. Dodge how early teachers see the Tripod surveys.
- 41 Ms. Landwehrle discussed that all teachers will see it at the same time.
- 42 She then discussed that at another school in NH, teachers were a little surprised at their Tripod
43 results. She noted that they have a buddy system to go over the results.
- 44 Ms. Peg Bennett asked a question about receiving the timing of results.
- 45 Ms. Landwehrle discussed that survey timing.
- 46 She then discussed that she had seen an overview of the results and she is meeting with
47 leadership groups at each school.
- 48 Ms. Landwehrle discussed that there are 7 C's or 7 Areas of the Tripod survey, and it gives
49 information with all of them.
- 50 Superintendent Warburton asked Ms. Landwehrle to discuss the Tripod survey.
- 51 Ms. Landwehrle discussed the beginnings of Tripod and the surveying methods. She noted that it
52 is anonymous to give teachers feedback. She added that they are looking school wide for trends
53 and to aid in Professional Development.
- 54 Ms. Landwehrle noted that she received many emails from teacher to go over their results.
- 55 Mr. Manning asked Ms. Landwehrle if she gets to see national metadata.
- 56 Ms. Landwehrle replied that it is a scaled score, and they are looking at gender, ethnicity, etc.
57 and that helps to norm the results.

58 Mr. Manning asked Ms. Landwehrle if Tripod is more for Professional Development or for
59 something else.

60 Ms. Landwehrle noted that at this time it is for Professional Development.

61 Discussion ensued.

62 The Board thanked Ms. Landwehrle.

63 Mr. Porter Dodge discussed the NJHS Induction Monday, February 15th.

64 He added that the membership is one of the highest with (57) 7th graders and (56) 8th graders.

65 He then discussed the ceremony and that in the future it will be student led.

66 He noted that there are more pictures on the AMS website.

67 He noted that pins and cards were given to the inductees at the ceremony.

68 Ms. Foulks asked Mr. Dodge what happens to the Charter book after signing.

69 Mr. Dodge replied that they keep the book for next year's induction of Members.

70 He then discussed that he is glad that they have this for the students. He thanked the Board
71 Members for coming and congratulated their children that were included in the ceremony.

72 Mr. Manning thanked Mr. Porter Dodge for bringing the National Junior Honor Society to AMS.
73 He added that Mr. Dodge was so positive and that it was greatly appreciated.

74 Discussion ensued.

75 Ms. Foulks asked Mr. Dodge about the new Maker Space at AMS.

76 Mr. Dodge discussed that the new Maker Space is up and running. He noted that last Saturday,
77 February 13th, was the class for soldering and learning to weld. He added that it is exciting for
78 the community and that there is a waiting list.

79 Mr. Prescott asked Mr. Dodge if he could talk more about registration.

80 Mr. Dodge noted that registration is through the Rec. Dept. and their website is very user
81 friendly. (<http://www.amherstrec.org/info/>)

82 Ms. Foulks added that if you subscribe to the Rec. Dept. newsletter you can get all the emails.

83 She discussed that she is glad with the public interest.

84 Mr. Manning asked if the Maker Space could bring in revenue.

85 Mr. Dodge discussed that right now it is gaining interest and it is possible that in the future it can
86 bring in revenue.

87 Ms. Foulks discussed that there may be future payoff they just do not know at the present time.

88 Ms. Foulks thanked Mr. Porter Dodge.

89 III. PUBLIC COMMENT

90 Ms. Lisa Eastland discussed that the SHS Community Council, SHS PTA and the Amherst PTA
91 are hosting a screening of the documentary film about education in America called “Most Likely
92 to Succeed”. She added that it will be held at the SHS Auditorium on Thursday, March 24th at
93 6:30pm.

94 She discussed that they will be questioning students with the questions:

95 1. What is your idea of a perfect way to learn and/or teach?

96 2. What is your idea of success?

97 She added that the answers can be written on any type of paper in any format they want. She
98 discussed that their plan is to write some of the answers on a big mural on the wall by the SHS
99 Auditorium. She remarked that on the night of the viewing they will discuss some of the answers
100 that students had given.

101 Ms. Eastland added that she would love to see as many people as possible there, and is excited
102 about the event.

103 The Board thanked Ms. Eastland.

104 IV. CONSENT AGENDA

105 A. Minutes

106 1. December 17, 2015

107 2. January 5, 2016

108 3. January 13, 2016 (Public Hearing)

109 B. Unanticipated Revenue to Student Activity Fund

110 1. Donation to Student Activity Fund–Box Tops for Education-\$781.30

111 C. Unanticipated Revenue to Special Revenue Fund

112 1. Energy North, Inc. - \$500 - for the maintenance and support of math and/or
113 science

114

115 **Ms. Amy Facey made a Motion to accept the Consent Agenda items A. Minutes from**
116 **December 17th 2015, January 5th and 13th (Public Hearing) 2016. B. Unanticipated Revenue**

117 **to Student Activity Fund 1. Donation to Student Activity Fund–Box Tops for Education-**
118 **\$781.30 and C. Unanticipated Revenue to Special Revenue Fund 1. Energy North, Inc. -**
119 **\$500 - for the maintenance and support of math and/or science. Mr. Paul Prescott seconded**
120 **the Motion. The vote was unanimous, Motion passed.**

121

122 Ms. Amy Facey noted that the Minutes, were very thorough.

123 V. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS

124 A. NWEA

125 Ms. Landwehrle discussed the NWEA Fall 2015 MAP Results.

126 She first discussed that the NWEA adapts to each student's learning level. She added even in a
127 6th grade exam a student could be getting higher grade questions.

128 She discussed that the NWEA generates a RIT score for each student (grade independent score
129 which indicates the level of question difficulty a given student is capable of answering correctly
130 about 50% of the time).

131 She then added that it shows growth targets and teachers can get feedback. She noted that there is
132 a continuum of skills and a class break down chart.

133 Ms. Landwehrle then discussed the NWEA MAP Reading Scores. She reviewed the Grade,
134 Student Count, Mean RIT Score and the Percentile.

135 She then discussed that the Smarter Balanced Assessment is letting them know how many
136 students are reaching a standard and it is different information.

137 She then discussed the NWEA Math Scores, and that they got good feedback. She reviewed the
138 Grade, Student count, Mean RIT, and Percentile.

139 She added that they can look at the results and review further if needed. She noted that they
140 looked at the 5th grade and the alignment. She discussed that there are chapters that need more or
141 less work.

142 Ms. Facey noted that the scores are great.

143 Discussion ensued about alignment.

144 Mr. Prescott noted that it is great that they are discovering the gaps and how to address specific
145 issues.

146 Discussion ensued.

147 Mr. Manning asked Ms. Landwehrle if they take the NWEA in high school.

- 148 Ms. Landwehrle replied, yes, in 9th and 10th grade.
- 149 She noted that the 9th grade had strong scores and she can add it to the results in the future.
- 150 Ms. Landwehrle discussed that there is a fall timeframe in which to take the test and that there
151 may have been students that have gotten more instruction.
- 152 Mr. Dodge asked a question about growth and the timing of the test.
- 153 Ms. Landwehrle discussed that when you generate a report that you can see the weeks of
154 instruction. She added that it is real time data.
- 155 Ms. Facey asked approximately how long the exam is.
- 156 Ms. Landwehrle replied usually, 15 or 20 min. She added that some have taken 40 min, or even
157 an hour.
- 158 Mr. St. Amand remarked that if a teacher feels that a student took the test in too short of time that
159 they can have that student retest.
- 160 Ms. Landwehrle discussed that NWEA is now web-based and the ease of reporting and
161 generating results is much easier than in the past.
- 162 The Board thanked Ms. Landwehrle for her Report.
- 163 VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS
- 164 A. Reflections on Deliberative Session
- 165 Ms. Lucienne Foulks noted that Ms. Betty Shankel had pulled some slides that the Board felt is
166 important to highlight and to share with the Amherst citizens.
- 167 Ms. Foulks discussed the FY 17' Budget Composition.
- 168 Mr. Jim Manning discussed that 87% of the Budget dollars are not going to change.
- 169 Ms. Foulks then discussed the FY 17' Default Budget.
- 170 She added that this slide represents a really interesting way of looking at it.
- 171 Mr. Jim Manning remarked that it is not a small amount of money (\$424,808).
- 172 Mr. Paul Prescott added that it is still a lower Budget and less than the default of last year.
- 173 Ms. Foulks then discussed the FY 17' A Focus on Value.

174 She noted that this is the message that they wanted to send this year. She added that it is
175 important to express that the Board is trying to hear everyone's point of view. She discussed that
176 the Board wants to be respectful of the taxpayers of Amherst and it's about the student
177 experience too.

178 Mr. Manning discussed that there is different points of value to the community, for example the
179 new AMS Maker Space.

180 Mr. Prescott discussed that it is important for students to be inspired to learn, and to be prepared
181 to move on to the next school. He added that test scores are extremely important but it is not the
182 end all.

183 Ms. Foulks then discussed the Re-prioritization Decisions.

184 She discussed implementing full day Kindergarten and other initiatives.

185 Ms. Facey commented that the Board is not looking to make sacrifices with Special Education.

186 Mr. Prescott discussed that every year is a blank slate and that Ms. Beauchamp and her team do a
187 good job anticipating the special education needs.

188 Ms. Foulks then discussed Common Core.

189 Ms. Peg Bennett noted that the ASD curriculum exceeds State Standards.

190 Ms. Facey discussed that there has always been State Standards, yet the standards have evolved.

191 She then discussed that the new SAT is aligned with Common Core.

192 Ms. Foulks then discussed the Sau #39 FY 17 District Budgets.

193 She noted that every District (ASD, MVSD, and SCSD) has seen a decrease and the SAU has
194 decreased as well.

195 Ms. Shankel noted that the total amount is almost one million dollars (\$964,366 or 6.72%)

196 Ms. Foulks then reminded the public to vote on Tuesday March 8th 2016 at SHS (6:00 am-
197 8:00pm)

198 Mr. Prescott added to please support the students and our schools.

199 The Board thanked Ms. Shankel

200 B. Alternative Date for ASB March Meeting

201 Ms. Foulks discussed that on March 24th, 6:00pm at SHS the film "Most Likely to Succeed" is
202 being shown in the Auditorium.

203 She noted that the next Board Meeting is scheduled for that night.

204 She discussed that March 23rd Wednesday, as a tentative date for the March meeting since there
205 is a conflict of time.

206 Discussion ensued.

207 VIII. ACTION ITEM

208 A. Baboosic Lake Road Alterations

209 Mr. Keith Trott, Foreman for the Amherst Parks and Recreation Department, discussed the
210 Proposal the Barn located at 11 Baboosic Lake Road, Amherst, NH.

211 He discussed that the Amherst Parks and Recreation Department (ARD) would like to install
212 two, commercial grade, garage doors on the barn at the 11 Baboosic Lake Property. The garage
213 doors will replace the broken single front door. He noted that by installing these doors they are
214 creating a much more suitable storage space for their equipment. He added that the current
215 design does not allow them to pull the bus or other larger pieces of equipment in because of the
216 location of the center poles. He added that once the two doors are installed they will have two
217 bays where the recreation bus can be parked, on one side, and the recreation tractor on the other
218 side.

219 He also noted that the ARD would also like to replace the staircase that is not up to code. Once
220 the staircase is built to code, they will be able to utilize the storage area above the garage. He
221 added that they are also interested in installing a small heater into the building to keep equipment
222 dry and above freezing. He noted that they would like to get the temperature above 40 degrees
223 so that the motors start easier and it is warmer to work on equipment.

224 Mr. Trott also discussed that all of the upgrades they will be making have been run by the
225 Amherst Building Inspector. He noted that all of these projects will be hired out and
226 professionally installed. He added that both the Amherst Board of Selectman and the Amherst
227 Recreation Commission have approved this project.

228 He finalized his proposal by discussing that in making these improvements they will have the
229 ability to store some of their newer and more expensive equipment indoors during inclement
230 weather. He discussed that it will not only increase the life of this equipment but cut down on
231 normal wear and tear.

232 Mr. Paul Prescott asked a question about the heater.

233 Mr. Trott replied that it is a propane heater.

234 Ms. Foulks then discussed that she had a discussion with Mr. Jim Miner and Mr. Craig Fraley-
235 (ARD), and they offered that property to (ARD) and there is equipment that is being stored there.

236 Ms. Facey asked Mr. Trott a question about how this is being funded.

237 Ms. Shankel noted that The Rec Department is paying for it, it is part of the lease agreement.

238 Discussion ensued.

239 Ms. Foulks asked a question about the center post.

240 Mr. Keith Trott discussed that the location of the center post was poor design for current use.

241 **Mr. Jim Manning made a Motion to approve the Barn Improvement Proposal for 11**
242 **Baboosic Lake Road made by the Amherst Parks and Recreation Department. Mr. Paul**
243 **Prescott seconded the Motion. The vote was unanimous, Motion passed.**

244 B. Policies – 2nd Reading

- 245 1. AA - School District Legal Status
- 246 2. AC – Non - Discrimination
- 247 3. ACA – Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence
- 248 4. BCA – School Board Member Ethics

249
250 **Ms. Peg Bennett made a Motion to adopt Policies 1. AA - School District Legal Status, 2.**
251 **AC – Non – Discrimination, 3. ACA – Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence and 4. BCA**
252 **– School Board Member Ethics as presented. Ms. Amy Facey seconded the Motion. The**
253 **vote was unanimous, Motion passed.**

254
255 Ms. Amy Facey noted that she is on the Policy Committee and noted that there were a couple of
256 minor changes. She added that the goal is to have all three of the districts to have the same
257 policy.

258
259 Ms. Foulks asked Ms. Facey if there was anything that she wanted to highlight.

260 Ms. Facey noted that there was a small change in the BCA- School Board Member Ethics Policy.
261 She noted that “A Board member’s greatest concern must be the educational welfare of the
262 students attending the public schools” was moved to #1.

263 She added that going forward they are going to have a deep discussion about the policies at the
264 SAU Meetings.

265
266 She noted that that way everyone can give input and at the individual board meeting the policies
267 can be voted on. She added that is the goal.

268
269 Discussion ensued.

270
271 Mr. Jim Manning asked the question what at the ramifications if you violate the BCA School
272 Board Member Ethics Policy.
273
274 Ms. Betty Shankel noted that you could censure a Board Member but there are no real
275 ramifications.
276
277 Ms. Amy Facey discussed that there will be Board Member self-reflection and evaluation at the
278 next Board Meeting to ensure that they are doing a good job and meeting the ethics.

279 X. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

280 Ms. Foulks noted that there are two Board members that have expired terms, herself and Ms.
281 Bennett.

282 XI. REVIEW OF MEETING/ADJOURN

283 **Mr. Jim Manning made a Motion to adjourn the Meeting at 7:51 PM. Ms. Peg Bennett**
284 **seconded the Motion, the vote was unanimous. Motion Passed.**