

Amherst School Board  
Wednesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> 2016  
Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Administrative Team: Peter Warburton- Superintendent, Betty Shankel – Business Administrator, Gerry St. Amand- Principal Clark/Wilkins School, Porter Dodge-Principal AMS, Bethany Bernasconi - Assistant Principal, Christine Landwehrle- Director of Curriculum & Professional Development, Meg Beauchamp- Director of Student Services AMS, John Robichaud- Director of Buildings and Grounds, Ms. Kathleen McIntyre- Librarian Clark/Wilkins School.

Amherst School Board: Chair- Amy Facey- Vice Chair- Jim Manning, Paul Prescott- Secretary, Galen Tremblay, and Elizabeth Kuzsma.

Theater Club: Ms. Denise Jacobs, Ms. Jennifer Stover and other Theater Club members

Minute Taker: Danae Marotta

Public: Ms. Maggie McCabe

**ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

I. CALL TO ORDER – Superintendent Peter Warburton

**Superintendent Mr. Peter Warburton called the Organizational Meeting to Order at 6:00 PM**

II. ELECTION OF SCHOOL BOARD OFFICERS

A. Chairman

**Mr. Jim Manning made a Motion to nominate Ms. Amy Facey as Chair of the Amherst School Board. Ms. Elizabeth Kuzsma seconded the Motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion passed.**

B. Vice-Chairman

**Ms. Amy Facey made a Motion to nominate Mr. Jim Manning as Vice- Chair of the Amherst School Board. Ms. Galen Tremblay seconded the Motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion passed.**

C. Secretary

39 **Ms. Galen Tremblay made a Motion to nominate Mr. Paul Prescott as Secretary of the**  
 40 **Amherst School Board. Ms. Amy Facey seconded the Motion. The vote was unanimous.**  
 41 **Motion passed.**

42  
 43 III. COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

44	<b>By Committee</b>	<b>Members</b>
	Amherst PTA Liaison	Beth Kuzsma
	Mont Vernon School Board Liaison	Amy Facey
	Manifest	Beth Kuzsma
		Galen Tremblay
	Policy	Amy Facey
		Galen Tremblay
	Ways and Means Committee	Amy Facey
		Paul Prescott
	Facilities Expendable Trust Fund	2 ASB Members: Jim Manning & Paul Prescott
	• 5 Voting Members	
	• 2 School Board members	
	• 2 Citizens	
	• Liaison from Amherst Board of Selectmen	
	• Non-Voting – Ways & Means; 2 Administrators	
	RSEC	
	AEA Negotiations	Amy Facey
		Jim Manning
	ASSA Negotiations	Amy Facey
		Beth Kuzsma
	Town of Amherst Liaison	Amy Facey
	CIP	Galen Tremblay
		Paul Prescott
	Recreation	Jim Manning
	Brick School Committee	Galen Tremblay
		Beth Kuzsma
	Wellness Committee	Galen Tremblay
		Beth Kuzsma

45  
 46 IV. APPOINTMENT OF SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICIALS

47  
 48 Ms. Betty Shankel discussed that Deputy Treasurer, Ms. Jan Bunker is moving at the end of  
 49 April and will no longer be serving.

50  
 51 She added that previous Board Member, Ms. Peg Bennett is willing to take over the position.

52  
 53 **Ms. Elizabeth Kuzsma made a Motion to appoint Ms. Peg Bennett as Deputy Treasurer for**  
 54 **the Amherst School Board starting May 1<sup>st</sup> 2016 and to continue through the 2016-2017**

55 **school year. Mr. Paul Prescott seconded the Motion. The vote was unanimous, Motion**  
56 **passed.**

57  
58 **Superintendent Mr. Peter Warburton closed the Organizational Meeting at 6:05 PM**

59  
60 **REGULAR MEETING**

61  
62 **I. CALL TO ORDER**

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64 **Chair Ms. Amy Facey called the Meeting to Order at 6:06 PM.**

65  
66 **II. OPEN PUBLIC HEARING – Expendable Trust expenditures for AMS gym floor**

67  
68 **Ms. Amy Facey opened the Public Hearing at 6:06pm**

69  
70 Ms. Betty Shankel discussed that they have noticed serious concerns with the AMS gym floor.

71  
72 She discussed that The AMS gym floor is over 40 years old and original to the building. She  
73 added that the average gym floor lifespan is 40 years and it is good that they got that amount of  
74 time out of it. She noted that it has been repaired multiple times due to water damage. It has also  
75 been sanded to bare wood and refinished at least three times.

76  
77 She discussed that they went to the flooring contractor, and they first recommended replacing the  
78 floor. She added that if they sanded and refinished they would get another 5 years of use. She  
79 noted that they decided to refinish rather than replace.

80  
81 She discussed the cost of replacement- \$125,000 and Sand and Refinish- \$21,720.

82  
83 Ms. Shankel then showed the Board the summer work that was completed.

84  
85 She then discussed the finishing product oil base finish vs. water base finish. She noted that oil  
86 base finish was used in the past and that water base finish is the new best practice for gym floors  
87 today. She added that water based finish is lower cost, easier to refinish/maintain and will be able  
88 to be maintained in-house.

89  
90 She then discussed the SHS experience with the gym floor and the AMS fall experience. She  
91 noted that the result is unsafe flooring. She then showed the splintering and chipping and that it  
92 is unsafe for the students.

93  
94 Ms. Shankel then discussed that until the safety concerns are resolved, there is padding to protect  
95 the students.

96  
97 Mr. Porter Dodge noted that the padding that is being used are the wrestling and cheerleading  
98 mats. He emphasized they are already showing wear because special shoes need to be worn  
99 while in use.

100

101 Ms. Betty Shankel discussed that the misuse of the wrestling and cheerleading mats is another  
102 reason that they need to replace the gym floor as soon as possible.

103  
104 She then discussed the replacement floor cost and the different vendors that have submitted a  
105 bid.

106  
107 New England Sports Floors-\$101,500, American Sports Floors-\$125,900, Gymnasium Floors-  
108 price available 3/22/16.

109  
110 She then discussed that they need to do bleacher removal and replacement- \$4,000 (has to be  
111 done professionally). She noted that there is \$4,500 for contingency.

112  
113 She noted that they are looking at taking \$25,000 from the Expendable Trust. Current balance is  
114 \$97,332. And the remainder from the Budget Savings, current balance, approx. \$500,000

115  
116 Ms. Shankel reviewed that the Expendable Trust is a fund set aside made up of monies that the  
117 voters have set aside for emergency issues. She added that if they had a smaller budget savings  
118 they might not be able to do this.

119  
120 Ms. Shankel then discussed that the ASD has had savings and most of it is due to health  
121 insurance and a rebate on the health insurance.

122  
123 **Ms. Facey noted a continuance of the Public Hearing starting at 6:20pm**

124  
125 Mr. Porter Dodge discussed that Ms. Denise Jacobs, Ms. Jennifer Stover and a few students are  
126 here to talk about the Theater Club.

127  
128 He then thanked Ms. Jacobs and Ms. Stover for their work.

129  
130 Ms. Amy Facey noted that the productions are great and is amazed at how much effort goes into  
131 it.

132  
133 Ms. Jennifer Stover noted that she loves participating.

134  
135 Several Theater Club Members then discussed what the Theater Club means to them. All of the  
136 students had positive comments.

137  
138 Ms. Stover noted that there are full-cast meetings once a week and they are proud of the students  
139 for all of their hard work.

140  
141 Superintendent Warburton noted that he has been to 4 of the performances and that they are  
142 wonderful and the quality is great.

143  
144 The Board thanked Ms. Stover and Ms. Jacobs for their time and commitment.

145  
146 The Board thanked the students and noted that they did a wonderful job.

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Mr. St. Amand then discussed the recent Invention Convention at the Wilkins School.

Ms. Kathleen McIntyre then discussed that there has been over 150 entries in the Invention Convention and that she is excited and pleased.

Then students discussed their inventions and how they came up with the ideas.

The Board thanked the students and noted that they did a wonderful job.

**The Public Hearing was restarted at 6:45pm**

Ms. Shankel then noted that she wanted to continue the discussion about the AMS gym floor.

Mr. Robichaud then discussed that they received three quotes and then discussed the two different top bidders.

He noted that he recommended the vendor New England Sports Floors. He added that they have done many gyms in the area and the pricing has been discounted if work can be completed in the spring of this year.

He remarked that they can start ASAP.

Mr. Manning asked a question about where the companies are located.

Mr. Prescott asked a question about the cost, the timing of completion and the additional cost for bleacher removal

Mr. Robichaud replied, yes, it would still be an extra \$4,000 for the removal of the bleachers. He noted that there are little things that will more than likely encompass the \$4,500 contingency.

Mr. Prescott asked if there will be an issue with the sawdust in the air and the safety of the kids.

Mr. Robichaud replied that they will seal it off so that no sawdust that will leave the gym.

Ms. Kuzsma asked about the gym and if it was multi-purpose room.

Mr. Manning asked if the Amherst Rec. Dept. uses the gym space and if they have been impacted.

Mr. Porter Dodge discussed that no one is using it now.

Mr. Manning asked if the Amherst Rec. Department can contribute any money for the replacement.

192 Ms. Shankel noted that they do not have an agreement for funds for the interior of the building  
193 but they do for the exterior. She added that she wanted to talk to Mr. Craig Fraley (Director of  
194 the Amherst Recreation Department) about a possible partnership.

195  
196 Discussion ensued.

197  
198 Ms. Shankel added that they would like to get 40 years out of the floor.

199  
200 Mr. Robichaud then described what the contractor will be doing to the floor in terms of  
201 replacement.

202  
203 Ms. Shankel noted that they don't have to use the Expendable Trust.

204  
205 Ms. Tremblay asked what will happen with the students if there is inclement weather and the  
206 kids cannot go outside.

207  
208 Mr. Dodge replied that they will improvise.

209  
210 Mr. Robichaud then discussed the replacement process and drying and curing time.

211  
212 Ms. Facey asked the Board if they had any questions.

213  
214 Ms. McCabe recommended to the Board and Administration that \$50K to come out of the  
215 Expendable Trust.

216  
217 The Board thanked Ms. McCabe.

218  
219 Ms. McCabe noted that based on her calculations that the remaining amount in the Expendable  
220 Trust would be \$47,322.

221  
222 Ms. Shankel noted that she is being conservative with the numbers and does not want to take too  
223 much out of the Expendable Trust.

224  
225 Discussion ensued.

226  
227 Ms. Facey noted that she would not like to go under 50k in the Expendable Trust.

228  
229 Mr. Jim Manning asked Mr. Robichaud if there is anything that he foresees that will need repair.

230  
231 Mr. Robichaud replied that there are things at every school and gave examples. He added that  
232 there are things that can go wrong and no one can predict that.

233  
234 Discussion ensued about how much to take out/leave in the Expendable Trust.

235  
236 **Ms. Facey closed the Public Hearing at 7:18pm**

237

238 The Board thanked Mr. Robichaud and Ms. Shankel.

239

240 **Mr. Paul Prescott made a Motion to award the bid to New England Sports Floors in the**  
241 **amount of \$101,500 with \$50k coming from the Expendable Trust and the remainder**  
242 **coming from Budget Savings. Mr. Jim Manning seconded the Motion. The vote was**  
243 **unanimous. Motion passed.**

244

245 III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

246 A. Principals' reports

247

248 Ms. Facey asked the Board if there were any questions on the Principal's Reports.

249

250 Mr. Prescott asked a question regarding the teacher technology in service from Mr. Bruce  
251 Chakrin.

252

253 Mr. Manning asked a question about the Junior National Honor Society.

254

255 Mr. Porter Dodge discussed the JNHS.

256

257 Ms. Facey asked a question about the Kindergarten enrollment and what is happening with full  
258 day K.

259

260 Mr. St. Amand replied that there is 92 registered for next year and 97 students currently. He noted  
261 that is a high number and that 69 of the students were known to CW, through preschool.

262

263 He discussed that there will be 6 sections of Kindergarten with 18 students in each class. He  
264 mentioned that there will be one teacher and one paraprofessional.

265

266 He added that they are thinking of sending out a publication about full day K, including the draft  
267 schedule.

268

269 Ms. Facey asked a question about how that number compares with previous years.

270

271 Discussion ensued about the amount of Kindergarteners.

272

273 Ms. Facey discussed that ASD has so much more to offer now, and if full day K is popular that  
274 they should plan for it.

275

276 Ms. St. Amand noted that the Kindergarten teachers are excited about it.

277

278 Superintendent Warburton thanked Mr. St. Amand and thanked Mr. Porter Dodge for his support  
279 in supporting full-day Kindergarten.

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281 IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

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283 No Public Comment

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## V. CONSENT AGENDA

### A. Minutes

1. February 18, 2016

### B. Treasurer's report

1. January 2016

2. February 2016

### C. Student Activities Funds – Principal's discretion

1. For Wilkins Elementary - \$380.89-Target Take Charge of Education

2. For Clark Elementary – \$252.50-Target Take Charge of Education

3. For AMS - \$189.74 - Target Take Charge of Education

**Mr. Jim Manning made a Motion to accept the Consent Agenda items A. Minutes 1. February 18, 2016 B. Treasurer's Report from January and February 2016 and C. Student Activities Funds-Principal's Discretion 1. For Wilkins Elementary- \$380.89- Target Take Charge of Education 2. For Clark Elementary- \$252.50- Target Take Charge of Education and 3. For AMS- \$189.74- Target Take Charge of Education. Mr. Paul Prescott seconded the Motion. 3 in favor, 2 abstentions- Ms. Elizabeth Kuzsma and Ms. Galen Tremblay.**

## VI. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS

### A. NWEA

Ms. Landwehrle then discussed the fall 2015 NWEA Map Results.

She then reviewed the NWEA MAP Overview and score interpretation.

Ms. Facey then asked a question about the RIT score.

Ms. Landwehrle then discussed that for the younger students, K and 1<sup>st</sup> grade, there is audio support.

Mr. Manning asked if this is a one day test.

Ms. Landwehrle noted that they are done on different days. At least they try to. She then discussed that it is computer adaptive. It will adapt up or down to where they are getting half right and half wrong.

She added that they made a shift in the units and that they needed to revisit some topics.

Ms. Kuzsma asked a question about the SBAC.

Ms. Landwehrle noted that the SBAC is a criterion based reference. And that they are required to give that test in order to receive Title 1 and Title 2 funds.

She then discussed the mean RIT is the raw achievement of the students.



329  
330 She then discussed the reading growth and that it is a projection based on the median. It is a  
331 projection not a benchmark, and that they can far exceed it.  
332  
333 She then discussed the NEWA Math- and that the 5<sup>th</sup> grade and 6<sup>th</sup> grade are lower than the rest.  
334  
335 She then discussed that 4<sup>th</sup> grade has had the biggest shift in change of math. And added that it is  
336 now fractions and decimals.  
337  
338 She then discussed the Math in Focus and the challenge of new students. She added that new  
339 students are not used to the way that math is taught and it may be different from other schools.  
340 She then discussed having an intervention program to help those that are not up to speed with the  
341 current curriculum.  
342  
343 Ms. Landwehrle noted that it is not a timed test.  
344  
345 She then discussed that the grade 6 is showing low growth.  
346  
347 She then discussed that close to 50% of the Math in Focus book for 5<sup>th</sup> grade is well over the  
348 Common Core state standard.  
349  
350 Mr. Prescott asked what is the plan to fix teaching above the state standards.  
351  
352 Ms. Landwehrle replied that that they have a plan and then described the plan for 5<sup>th</sup> grade math.  
353  
354 Mr. Prescott asked if there will there be any professional development that will be involved over  
355 the summer.  
356  
357 Ms. Landwehrle then noted that Math Coordinator, Jen Eccelston has been helping with  
358 instructional practices and working professional development into the day.  
359  
360 Discussion ensued.  
361  
362 Ms. Facey asked Ms. Landwehrle if she could do more research into the 4<sup>th</sup> grade results.  
363  
364 Ms. Landwehrle replied, yes, she would look into those results more.  
365  
366       B. Competency Based Grading  
367  
368 Ms. Landwehrle then discussed why they are moving toward competency based grading  
369 practices. She added that it is a part of the SAU 39 Strategic Plan for all students pre-k through  
12<sup>th</sup> grade.  
370  
371 She added that they would like to adopt a common reporting system based on academic  
372 standards and habits of mind that are age appropriate and include narrative comments on student  
progress.

373 She discussed having a fully aligned and unified SAU 39, pre-k through 12<sup>th</sup> grade curricula and  
374 a culture of rigorous academic excellence.

375 She also discussed implementing a system-wide competency based assessment model.

376 Ms. Landwehrle then discussed what a competency is. She discussed that it is larger than a  
377 standard, it reflects applied skills and knowledge and is used to assess and report out on learning.

378 She then discussed an Example Competency.

379 She then discussed the challenges with a traditional grading system. She noted that there was a  
380 disconnect and many challenges that they have never thought about.

381 Discussion ensued about the methods of grading and accuracy.

382 Mr. Manning noted that it should be an SAU wide initiative.

383 Ms. Bernasconi remarked that a large part of the U.S. has already switched to a competency  
384 based grading system.

385 Mr. Warburton noted that there are homeschools and that those students are accepted to great  
386 schools because they are competency based.

387 Mr. Prescott noted that he is for competency based grading.

388 Ms. Kuzsma asked if there was a way to change the Parent Portal.

389 Discussion ensued about creating rubrics.

390 Ms. Bernasconi added that there is a lengthy conversation that needs to happen about this topic.

391 Mr. Prescott remarked that would be in favor of dropping the portal idea if it is not supporting  
392 the schools.

393 Superintendent Warburton noted that he understands the frustration and that they are moving  
394 towards competency based grading.

395 Ms. Facey remarked that opening the Parent Portal was a means of opening communication and  
396 asked if there are interim steps to open communication.

## 397 IX. ACTION ITEM

398

399 A. Professional nominations

400

401 Non-public PW requested

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403 C. MS22 Voted Appropriations

404

405 Ms. Betty Shankel then discussed that the MS 22 Voted Appropriations is a report that is voted  
406 on by the Town that lists the Budget and Warrant Articles. She added that they turn it in to the  
407 NH Department of Revenue with a lot of other documentation and they examine and approve it.

408  
409 **Mr. Jim Manning made a Motion to authorize the Board Members, Superintendent of**  
410 **Schools-Mr. Peter Warburton and the School District Clerk to sign the MS22 Voted**  
411 **Appropriations. Mr. Paul Prescott seconded the Motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion**  
412 **passed.**

413  
414 Ms. Betty Shankel passed around the MS22 for the Superintendent and the Board Members to  
415 sign.

416  
417 The Board thanked Ms. Shankel

418  
419 D. Brick School Renovations

420  
421 Mr. Peter Warburton noted that he wanted to discuss renovations at the Brick School.

422  
423 He noted that the Brick School is owned by the ASD and that the SAU has a lease agreement. He  
424 added that if they do anything to it the Board has to approve it.

425  
426 He mentioned that he will need the Board's permission to continue with the renovations.

427  
428 He then remarked that he had discussed with Mr. Robichaud the different levels of completeness.

429  
430 He discussed that he has talked with the Bean Group for a possible grant and the deadline is  
431 April 1. He then added that the space could be used for a meeting area, art space, etc.

432  
433 He added that it is the last area that needs to be renovated.

434  
435 **Mr. Paul Prescott made a motion to continue renovations on the Brick School. Ms.**  
436 **Elizabeth Kuzsma seconded the Motion, the vote was unanimous. Motion passed.**

437  
438 Mr. Manning asked Mr. Warburton how much does he estimate for cost.

439  
440 Mr. Warburton replied, \$2 or \$3k.

441  
442 X. NON-PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91-A:3 II. (a) (b) (c)

443  
444 **Mr. Jim Manning made a motion to enter into Non-Public session RSA 91-A: 3 II (a) (b)**  
445 **and (c) at 9:25pm. Mr. Paul Prescott seconded the Motion. The vote was unanimous,**  
446 **Motion passed.**

447  
448 To discuss a personnel matter.

449  
450 Ms. Amy Facey called a Roll Call: Facey- Yes, Manning-Yes, Prescott-Yes, Kuzsma- Yes and  
451 Tremblay-Yes