

Amherst School Board
Thursday, May 19th 2016
Meeting Minutes

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Attendees:

Administrative Team: Peter Warburton- Superintendent, 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: Amy Facey- Chair, Jim Manning- Vice Chair, Paul Prescott – Secretary, Galen Tremblay and Elizabeth Kuzsma.

Minute Taker: Danae Marotta

Public: Ms. Maggie McCabe- Amherst NH

I. CALL TO ORDER – Chair Amy Facey

Chair Amy Facey called the meeting to order at 6:13 pm.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Principals' reports

Ms. Facey asked the Board Members if they had any questions for Principal St. Amand.

Ms. Tremblay asked a question about 6 day scheduling.

Mr. St. Amand then discussed the different blocks of time.

Ms. Facey asked Mr. St. Amand about the Spring Concert.

Mr. St. Amand then discussed the Spring Concert and the Writing Festival that is next week.

He noted that Mr. Allwarden, music educator, led the first grade classes through wonderful day and evening programs on Thursday, May 12th. He noted that the programs once again showcased the many talents of our music educator and the students who display wonderful talent and skill with Mr. Allwarden's leadership.

He added that all of the first grade teachers also attended the evening program that played to a full house of families and friends of our first graders.

Ms. Kuzsma noted that she went to the first grade music show and that Mr. Allwarden did a wonderful job and the students were impressive.

42
43 Mr. St. Amand agreed with Ms. Kuzsma.
44
45 Ms. Facey then asked Mr. St. Amand if he could talk a little bit about Liz Alexakos and her
46 achievements.
47
48 Mr. St. Amand then discussed that Ms. Liz Alexakos, grade one teacher at Wilkins, has moved to the
49 semi-finalist round in the “New Hampshire 2017 Teacher of the Year” process.
50
51 He added that the next step in the process is a visiting team of judges from the New Hampshire
52 Department of Education will come to the Wilkins School during the afternoon on Monday, June 6th,
53 to observe Ms. Alexakos teaching a twenty to thirty minute lesson to her class. He added that she will
54 be choosing the material. He then noted that the visiting judges will also meet with parent, teacher,
55 student, and administrative representatives for twenty minute blocks.
56
57 He then added that it would be wonderful if they could have a current and/or past Amherst School
58 Board member meet briefly with the visiting team
59
60 Ms. Facey noted that she is representing the District well.
61
62 She also noted that Liz Vaillancourt had great news as well.
63
64 Mr. St. Amand replied, yes, special recognition must also be given to Liz Vaillancourt, second grade
65 teacher, and her entire class. He added that every student submitted a writing entry to the New
66 Hampshire Public Television Writer’s Contest and three of the students received an
67 “Honorable Mention”. He stated that those three students are: Allie Breault, Emerson Maka, and
68 Zoe Veilleux.
69
70 He noted that the children’s pieces are posted on the NHPTV website for anyone to
71 read.
72
73 Mr. St. Amand noted that they had impressive attendance.
74
75 The Board thanked Mr. St. Amand for his report.
76
77 Ms. Facey asked the Board if they any questions for Principal Dodge.
78
79 Mr. Manning noted that there are a lot of cool activities that are coming up.
80
81 Principal Dodge replied, yes, there are a lot of really good activities that are coming up.
82
83 Ms. Facey noted Jaye Griffin recently received a National Medal in the 2016 Scholastic Art and
84 Writing Awards Competition
85
86 Mr. Dodge then discussed that it was presented by the Alliance for Young Artists and
87 Writers. He added that less than 1% are recognized at the national level, and Jaye’s Silver Medal
88 is excellent.

89
90 Ms. Facey then asked Mr. Dodge if he could discuss the student user fees.
91
92 Principal Dodge then commented that he had discussed raising the student user fees with
93 Superintendent Warburton over a year ago. He added that it was time to raise them due to rising costs.
94 He remarked that they will be sending information to parents over the summer.
95
96 He then added that Souhegan High School has raised their fees over the last few years to \$100+
97 depending on the sport/activity. He remarked that the original amount is \$50 and he would like to
98 increase the fees to \$75
99
100 Mr. Manning asked Mr. Dodge for an update on the new basketball court.
101
102 Mr. Dodge noted that they might have to wait a bit longer for completion, about the first week of June.
103 He added that he has seen it and it is incredible. He added that the flexibility has been great with the
104 teachers and with the good weather, the students have been able to enjoy the outdoors.
105
106 Mr. Dodge commented that the cleaning alone was \$17,000 and thanks to Ms. Betty Shankel it is now
107 \$3,000.
108
109 The Board thanked Ms. Shankel (not in attendance).
110
111 Discussion ensued over the new basketball court.
112
113 B. Committee reports
114
115 Mr. Jim Manning asked if he could discuss the Advance group.
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117 Superintendent Warburton replied, yes you certainly may. He added that they will be discussing the
118 Pillars at the next SAU meeting.
119
120 Mr. Manning discussed the Advance committee, and although they would like to, they cannot do
121 everything all at once. He added that they will be prioritizing and having deadlines. He remarked that
122 that those deadlines are not set in stone. He then discussed the continued progress of the Committee.
123
124 Ms. Facey discussed the Streamline group and reminded the Board that Ms. McCabe is also a Member
125 of that group. She added that they are looking at consolidation models and noted that there will be a
126 presentation at the SAU Board Meeting next week.
127
128 III. PUBLIC COMMENT
129
130 Ms. McCabe discussed that she had looked at the Agenda and that she did not know what the topic
131 Gender Equality was about. She suggested putting the Public Comment section later in the meeting.
132 She added that she might have comments during the meeting.
133

134 Ms. Kuzsma noted that she went to the New School Board Members meeting and that sometimes it
135 does come last.

136
137 Mr. Warburton noted that he will put it on the SAU agenda for next week.
138

139 IV. CONSENT AGENDA

140 A. Minutes

141 1. April 21, 2016

142 B. Treasurer's report

143 1. April 2016

144 C. Unanticipated General Fund Revenue

145 1. \$345.10 - Box Tops for Education – Wilkins

146 2. \$100.00 - Target Take Charge of Education

147 3. \$200.00 - Target Take Charge of Education

148 D. Budget transfers

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150
151 **Mr. Paul Prescott made a Motion to accept the Consent Agenda items A. Minutes from April 21st**
152 **2016, as amended B. Treasurer's Report for April 2016, C. Unanticipated General Fund Revenue**
153 **1. \$345.10 - Box Tops for Education – Wilkins, 2. \$100.00 - Target Take Charge of Education, 3.**
154 **\$200.00 - Target Take Charge of Education and D. Budget transfers. Ms. Elizabeth Kuzsma**
155 **seconded the Motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion passed.**

156 157 V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

158 A. Gender Equity

159 Ms. Amy Facey noted that she wanted to discuss gender equity.
160

161 Ms. Landwehrle then discussed that for the topic Gender Equity in Education there is information
162 available from the U.S Census Data and Civil Rights Data Collection.

163 She then discussed Enrollment by Gender- Pre K through higher education. She added that there is 57%
164 females and 43% of males in higher education. She added that more women are in higher education but
165 less in STEM fields.

166 She then discussed Algebra 1 enrollment by grade, boys and girls. She added that this is the national
167 level. She remarked that in physics girls are underrepresented.

168 She then discussed High School Science Courses by Gender and is added that she is curious what SHS
169 data would look like.

170 She then discussed the Advance Placement Access and Success. She added that girls outnumber boys in
171 enrollment in AP science, AP foreign languages and several other AP subjects.
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179 She noted that in AP math (calculus and statistics), boys have consistently outnumbered girls by up to
180 10,000 students. She discussed that Boys take AP tests and pass AP tests at a higher rate than girls.
181 73% of boys enrolled in an AP course took an AP exam, compared to 70% of girls. She added that 60%
182 of boys passed an AP exam, compared to 55% of girls.

183

184 Mr. Prescott asked a question about AP courses and gender.

185

186 Ms. Tremblay commented about boys and taking tests.

187

188 Discussion ensued.

189

190 Ms. Landwehrle then discussed some national results of high school sports.

191

192 She then noted that she wanted to discuss the NWEA fall 2015 Mean RIT scores and that the largest
193 difference is in the 8th grade reading between male and female.

194

195 Ms. Kuzsma noted that it is just a couple of point's difference.

196

197 Ms. Landwehrle replied, yes, it is not a great amount.

198

199 Mr. Warburton commented that the SBAC data might be interesting as well.

200

201 Mr. Manning asked a question about how to use tripod to look for any gender equities.

202

203 Ms. Landwehrle discussed that Tripod is in an agree/disagree format. She added that they would
204 separate female and male and how they answered the question. She added that she does not know if
205 they could norm those results out.

206

207 Mr. Warburton noted that it would help with Professional Development for staff. He added that this is
208 great preliminary information to start a discussion.

209

210 Mr. Manning then asked if the student could add that they are on a IEP on the survey.

211

212 Ms. Landwehrle replied, no, that Tripod protects the confidentiality of the student.

213

214 She then added that she could recreate a survey with Survey Monkey and pull a groups of IEP and non-
215 IEP students.

216

217 Discussion ensued.

218

219 Ms. Kuzsma asked Ms. Landwehrle if they are allowed to pick the survey questions.

220

221 Ms. Landwehrle added that the questions are already set, and that the younger ones would not
222 know/understand what an IEP is.

223

224 Mr. Manning noted that the Board has discussed the topic of girls, STEM and the National Honor
225 Society. He then asked if they should look to those areas first.

226
227 Mr. Warburton discussed that talking to our kids is helpful and they can get valuable data that way. He
228 added that this meeting and the next meeting it is great to discuss the topic.

229
230 Ms. Landwehrle remarked that we can look at other data, like the NEWA data, and what percentage are
231 in sports. She added that it depends on what your questions are.

232
233 Mr. Manning discussed the importance of looking at sports data for genders.

234
235 Mr. Warburton noted that it is an interesting topic and there is a great amount to look at.

236
237 VI. INFORMATIONAL

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239 A. Summer Curriculum Update

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241 Ms. Landwehrle discussed the Summer Curriculum update.

242
243 She noted that the Summer Literacy Institute is on June 20th –June 23rd involving grades 1-8 with 25
244 teachers. She added that last year they were drafting units and now that they have been through a year
245 they know the changes that they want to bring in. She added that they will be rolling out the new K-8
246 competencies. She discussed that they were done and created with the help of our teachers.

247
248 Ms. Facey asked when the competencies will be rolled out.

249
250 Ms. Landwehrle replied, at the Institute, and the roll out might be ongoing.

251
252 She then discussed the Summer Science Curriculum Writing Institute for June 27th- June 29th with
253 grades 5-8, and with 10 teachers. She added that science teachers will be working to align grades 5-8
254 curriculum to the NGSS and develop new units where needed. She noted that they will come back in
255 Aug. for additional work or reflection.

256
257 She then discussed the Math Curriculum updates. She added that the tentative date is in July, with
258 grades K-8 with 1 math teacher per grade. She added that teachers will redesign the math curriculum to
259 focus around big ideas an essential questions.

260
261 She then discussed the Full-day K work and that with the Summer Literacy Institute they are spread
262 really thin. She added that they need to dedicate separate time to each. She noted that they did spend
263 some time on full-day K curriculum already last year with Mont Vernon. She remarked that they waited
264 till Aug. for the full-day K new hires.

265
266 She then discussed the added subjects to ASD full day k.

267
268 Mr. Prescott noted that the additional subjects that are going to be added is very exciting.

269

270 She then discussed the additional committee work of assessing, grading and reporting, Tripod/Teacher
271 Leader Effectiveness and work with the Professional Development committee.

272

273 The Board thanked Ms. Landwehrle for her reports.

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275 VII. ACTION ITEM

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277 A. Professional nominations

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279 **Ms. Galen Tremblay made a Motion to accept the professional nominations as presented by**
280 **Superintendent, Mr. Peter Warburton. Ms. Elizabeth Kuzsma seconded the Motion. The vote**
281 **was unanimous, Motion passed.**

282

283 VIII. NON-PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91-A: 3 II. (a) (b) (c)

284

285 **Ms. Elizabeth Kuzsma made a Motion to enter into Non-Public Session RSA 91-A: 3 II. (a) (b) (c)**
286 **at 6:13 pm. Mr. Jim Manning seconded the Motion. The vote was unanimous, Motion passed.**

287

288 Ms. Facey called a Roll Call: Kuzsma-Yes, Tremblay-Yes, Facey-Yes, Manning-Yes and Prescott- Yes

289

290 IX. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

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292 A. Reception for new staff - June

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294 Superintendent Warburton noted that at the June meeting they will have a reception for new staff. He
295 added that they will serve lemonade and cookies.

296

297 X. REVIEW OF MEETING/ADJOURN

298

299 **Mr. Paul Prescott made a Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8: 00 pm. Ms. Galen Tremblay**
300 **seconded the Motion. The vote was unanimous, Motion passed.**