

AMHERST SCHOOL BOARD
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2016

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Attendees:

Administrative Team: Peter Warburton- Superintendent, Adam Steel- Business Administrator, Gerry St. Amand- Principal Clark/Wilkins School, Porter Dodge-Principal AMS, Christine Landwehrle- Director of Curriculum & Professional Development, and John Robichaud- Director of Buildings and Grounds.

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

Minute Taker: Danae Marotta

Public: Maggie McCabe- Amherst- NH, Dwayne Purvis- Amherst, NH.

I. CALL TO ORDER – Chair Amy Facey

Chair Amy Facey called the Meeting to order at 6:14 pm.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Principals' Reports

Ms. Facey mentioned how beautiful the AMS grounds are.

Principal Dodge then thanked all those that helped beautify the grounds.

□ Amherst Makerspace

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L0glo7P66Dw>

He then noted that he has a Maker Space presentation video and that it was shown on the Opening Day.

Superintendent Warburton then asked Principal Dodge if he could explain a little bit about the Maker Space.

Mr. Dodge replied, absolutely, after the video.

Principal Dodge then played the Maker Space intro video.

Mr. Dodge then discussed that Mr. Brad Freeman, Network Manager, has been heavily involved since the beginning of the Maker Space. He then discussed that there are others that are involved as well.

He then discussed the use of the Swipe Card and the ease of use.

He noted that a steel lathe is going to be donated with the approx. value of \$5,000. He then discussed all of the other local businesses that would like to get involved.

33 Principal Dodge noted that Mr. Freeman is doing a great job, as well as Mr. Steve Opre,
34 Innovation and Design Instructor, and that the Maker Space has changed so much in a month's
35 time with safety procedures and other things.

36 Ms. Kuzsma asked what community members should do if they are interested in donating their
37 time and used the example for web developing.

38 Mr. Dodge then reviewed how the process works. He noted that first they should go to the ARD,
39 Amherst Recreation Department website.

40 Mr. Prescott then asked if it is through the ARD.

41 Principal Dodge replied, yes, and that Mr. Craig Fraley, ARD Director, has been great.

42 He also noted that there is a link on the ARD website.

43 He remarked that tonight was the Maker Space Open House and that they have a lot of sign ups.

44 Ms. Kuzsma noted that Mr. Dodge's enthusiasm is great.

45 Mr. Dodge discussed that the Maker Space was featured on NPR and also in the Nashua
46 Telegraph.

47 Ms. Facey commented that it is a great community partnership and thanked Mr. Dodge.

48 Principal Dodge then discussed the Special Education Program Development.

49 He noted that Ms. Meg Beauchamp, Director of Student Services, couldn't be here tonight.

50 He then discussed that they are in the beginnings of developing a program primarily for Autistic
51 students. He added that they have contacted the State and had been given the go ahead to start
52 the program. He added that Autism will not be the only need serviced.

53 He then discussed that instead of students going out of the District for services that they can stay
54 in the district.

55 Mr. Prescott then asked Principal Dodge at what point do you expect to hear more about it.

56 Mr. Dodge replied that they are looking to hear back from the DOE and that right now it is still
57 in the design stage. He added that he will keep the Board informed as they go.

58 Mr. Prescott commented that and Budget season is coming up and noted that he is concerned
59 with the compressed timeframe.

60 Mr. Dodge noted that it will be challenging timewise but it is something that they believe in.

61 Principal St. Amand added that they will be bringing something to the Budget proposal and keep
62 the Board updated.

63 Ms. Facey asked about the staffing.

64 Principal St. Amand replied, no, not yet.

65 Discussion ensued over the staffing.

66 The Board thanked Principal Dodge.

67 Ms. Facey then asked Mr. Dodge what an Aquaponic garden is.

68 Mr. Dodge discussed that AMS has received a generous donation of an Aquaponic Garden
69 system from Amherst residents Christopher and Jessica Steele. He added that students in grade 7
70 will oversee and maintain this large and highly complex gardening system, which is located in
71 the entrance of the upstairs science wing for the entire school to enjoy. He noted that the
72 dimensions are 6 x 6 x 2. He then added that it is cool that they can have this for the students.

73 Ms. Facey then asked Principal St. Amand if he could give a brief assessment about K.

74 Mr. St Amand noted that the first day dismissal was challenging but since then everything has
75 been going great.

76 He discussed that the vast amount of kids had stamina throughout the day and it is terrific.

77 He then discussed that this morning was the PTA meeting about Kindergarten and they had a lot
78 of good questions from parents. He added that the 6 Kindergarten teachers are working well as a
79 team. He then discussed some minimal changes with report cards and aligning with 1st grade.

80 Ms. Facey noted that it is great and wise decision.

81 Mr. St. Amand then discussed Clark/Wilkins enrollment stands at 674. He noted that in June
82 2015 it was 621. He added that this year was the biggest change and he is attributing it to full day
83 K.

84 Principal St. Amand noted that he will keep the Board posted with enrollment amounts.

85 Ms. Facey also remarked that the Principals will be changing their Principal's Report templates
86 to better reflect the Strategic Plan.

87 III. PUBLIC COMMENT

88 Ms. Maggie McCabe, Amherst NH, discussed changing the placement of Public Comment in the
89 Agenda. She added that she has brought it up with the Souhegan Cooperative School Board and
90 wanted to bring it up here.

91 The Board thanked Ms. McCabe.

92 Mr. Dwayne Purvis, Amherst NH, wanted to discuss acknowledging the best students including
93 the top 25%. He then discussed his displeasure with them receiving no recognition at the 8th
94 grade graduation. He added that achieved perfection that they earned and are deserving of. He
95 noted that he is asking for a public apology from the School Board for the students.

96 The Board thanked Mr. Purvis.

97 IV. CONSENT AGENDA

98 A. Minutes

99 1. August 23, 2016

100 B. 2016-2017 Heating Oil Pricing

101 Chair Amy Facey noted that she wanted to pull the A. Minutes 1. August 23rd, 2016 for a
102 correction.

103 Line 138- changed to *“She added that the Warrant Committee for Amherst is meeting next week.
104 The Streamline Committee plans to do an individual presentation at the SAU Meeting.”*

105 **Ms. Elizabeth Kuzsma made a Motion to accept the Consent Agenda items A. Minutes 1.
106 August 23rd, 2016, as amended, and B. 2016-2017 Heating Oil Pricing. Ms. Galen Tremblay
107 seconded the Motion. The vote was unanimous, Motion passed.**

108 Mr. John Robichaud, Director of Buildings and Grounds then discussed the heating oil pricing.
109 He discussed that last year the price was \$1.969 and the week after labor day it went down to
110 \$1.819. He added that with these savings the ASD saves approximately \$3K, (ASD- \$2,884.47
111 Agenda pg. 18) if they have the same usage as last year.

112 Ms. Kuzsma asked Mr. Robichaud what if oil prices go down.

113 Mr. Robichaud noted that the prices are low already and more than likely they rise in the winter.

114 The Board thanked Mr. Robichaud.

115 V. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS

116 A. Literacy Curriculum

117 Ms. Landwehrle then discussed the Summer Literacy Overview.

118 She discussed the Goals of creating an engaging Curriculum Framework aligned to, CCSS, NH
119 SS Curriculum Frameworks/C3 SS Curriculum Framework (K-12) (where applicable) and Next
120 Generation Science Standards (K-4) (where applicable).

121 She discussed ensuring Coherence both horizontal (within a grade level and across disciplines),
122 as well as vertical (across grade levels).

123 Ms. Landwehrle then discussed providing students’ access to the full range of standards through
124 engaging EQs, texts and assessment.

125 She then discussed their work on Day 1 with a Welcome and Overview. She then discussed a
126 Mini-Lesson, UBD (Grades 1-4 only) and Competencies and WSP (Grades 5-12).

127 She then discussed grade level work time using checklist to guide curriculum framework
128 development.

129 She then discussed the SAU 39 Literacy Curriculum Framework, including standards based,
130 provides common student, experiment, allows for teacher choice and voice at the lesson level,

131 coherent within and across grade levels, allows for integration with other content areas and built
132 on shared beliefs and common resources.

133 She then discussed what they are going to understand including the Unit Title, Unit Time frame,
134 Essential Question, Enduring Understandings, Standards and WSP, Content Area and
135 Competencies, Complex Texts, Summative Assessments and Possible Formative Assessments.

136 She then discussed a Unit Plan Checklist and how it helped to guide their work.

137 She then discussed One Note (houses their Literacy Curriculum Document) and that it is
138 dynamic. She added that it was new for many of the staff members and they love it.

139 She then reviewed what One Note is, adding that it is an electronic notebook, has many sections
140 and pages, fully collaborative, and allows you to enter content into the notebook and to upload
141 files.

142 She added that their SAU 39 Literacy Framework notebook is shared with all literacy institute
143 participants, that they all have been given editing privileges and that any changes that you make
144 are permanent.

145 She then showed what One Note looks like, including the Welcome page.

146 Ms. Landwehrle then discussed their Work on days 2-4.

147 She finalized her presentation with Literacy Institute Reflections.

148 She then passed out some information on Curriculum and added that although it is a large
149 document she is more than happy to answer questions.

150 Ms. Kuzsma commented on the document.

151 Ms. Facey commented on the work study practices in the document.

152 The Board thanked Ms. Landwehrle.

153 She then discussed approving the Curriculum next month.

154 VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

155 A. Data Dashboard

156 Ms. Landwehrle then discussed working with the MVVS and Chair of the MVVSD Mr. Tom
157 Driscoll on their Data Dashboard.

158 She then discussed that he created a list of possible items for the MVVS that can be adjusted for
159 the ASD and be included on the ASD dashboard such as Budget, CPP, State Aid, various teacher
160 certifications, the amount of teacher PD and standardized assessments.

161 She added that she can email these out for the Board Members to review.

162 She noted that Mr. Driscoll had put together a comprehensive list, but might add the student to
163 computer ratio.

164 She added that she has been looking at other websites and that that they are more compliance
165 based but she can send some examples.

166 Ms. Facey noted that they have a 4 School Board Chairs meeting soon and they would like to be
167 as aligned as possible. She added that it would be good to have that information for the public.

168 She then added that this could be an SAU discussion.

169 VII. INFORMATIONAL

170 A. Overview of summer work

171 Ms. Landwehrle then discussed the 2016 Summer Learning including the following:

- 172 • 9-12 STEAM Institute
- 173 • 1-12 Literacy Institute
- 174 • 5-8 Science Curriculum Writing Institute
- 175 • Tripod Protocol Development and Field Test Planning
- 176 • PACE Summer Institute – Tier 1
- 177 • K-8 Mentoring Program Development
- 178 • 1-8 Math Institute for Curriculum Development
- 179 • Full Day Kindergarten Program Development
- 180 • Assessment, Grading and Reporting Book Clubs

181 She added that she included SAU 39 work as well and that great work was done to bring math
182 and science together. She added that there are some significant shifts in science standards and
183 that they had to make changes.

184 She also mentioned that the CEO of Tripod came out for a visit.

185 B. Assessment grading and reporting committee update

186 Ms. Landwehrle then discussed that they had book club meetings and how much they had
187 learned.

188 She then gave Mr. Prescott a book about assessment grading that he had been waiting for.

189 Mr. Prescott thanked Ms. Landwehrle.

190 She then discussed that they got a flood of emails and that even teachers that are not on the
191 committee are looking to read.

192 She then discussed the overview of summer work.

193 Superintendent Warburton then gave his support for the great curriculum work.

194 Mr. John Robichaud then discussed some summer buildings and grounds work that have been
195 done to AMS and Clark/Wilkins.

196 He discussed that at the Clark school they added 3 handicapped ramps in the back due to failing
197 concrete structures and there are now 3 back exits.

198 He discussed that some of the bathrooms at the Clark school were replaced and are new. He then
199 discussed that the staff bathroom is now a one seater and has new flooring. He discussed that one
200 of the bathrooms upstairs was redone and that they did not do the other two bathrooms yet as he
201 is waiting for staff feedback.

202 He then discussed that the Wilkins portables skirting was in need of replacement and that it is
203 expensive and that they were looking for more affordable options. He added that they went with
204 vinyl siding placed length wise and that it looks appealing and cost wise was substantially less
205 than mobile home skirting.

206 He discussed that the CW bathrooms had some difficulties and that it was a big accomplishment
207 with new tile and beautiful sinks.

208 He then discussed the addition of the washer/dryer and a slop sink. He added that these additions
209 will resolve some problems.

210 Ms. Facey asked about the polybeads on the AMS gym floor.

211 Mr. Robichaud replied that it has been a challenge with the polybeads and with the lower
212 humidity it gets better.

213 He added that he is hoping it finishes drying and that there will be no more problems. He also
214 stated that he has called the company and they said it might happen, although he wished he had
215 known sooner.

216 Superintendent Warburton remarked that it looks beautiful.

217 Principal Dodge also added that as the humidity lowers the polybeads will no longer pose a
218 problem.

219 The Board thanked Mr. Robichaud.

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

221 **Ms. Elizabeth Kuzsma made a Motion to enter into Non-Public Session RSA 91-A: 3 II. (c)**
222 **at 7:45 pm. Mr. Paul Prescott seconded the Motion. The vote was unanimous, Motion**
223 **passed.**

224 Chair Amy Facey Called a Roll Call:

225 Facey-Yes, Kuzsma-Yes, Tremblay-Yes, and Prescott- Yes

226 The Board discussed a student transportation matter.

227 **At 8:25 p.m. Ms. Beth Kuzsma made a Motion to exit non-public session. Ms. Galen**
228 **Tremblay seconded the Motion. The vote was unanimous, Motion passed.**

229 Chair Amy Facey Called a Roll Call:
230 Facey-Yes, Kuzsma-Yes, Tremblay-Yes, and Prescott- Yes

231 **Ms. Galen Tremblay made a Motion to instruct the Superintendent to provide names for**
232 **the Board to appoint a 5 person transportation committee to hear an appeal requested by a**
233 **parent. Ms. Beth Kuzsma seconded the Motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion passed.**

234 **At 8:28 p.m. Mr. Paul Prescott made a Motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Galen**
235 **Tremblay seconded the Motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion passed.**

236 X. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

237 • Academic Recognition at Amherst Middle School.