

## 1 Amherst School Board

2 Thursday, March 30, 2017

## 3 Meeting Minutes

## 4 Attendees:

5 Administrative Team: Peter Warburton- Superintendent, Adam Steel- Business Administrator,  
6 Gerry St. Amand- Principal Clark/Wilkins, Porter Dodge-Principal AMS, Christine Landwehrle-  
7 Director of Curriculum & Professional Development, Kathleen C. McIntyre, Library/Media  
8 Specialist, Clark/Wilkins and Larry Ballard- Chorus Teacher.

9 Amherst School Board: - Galen Tremblay- Chair, Elizabeth Kuzsma- Vice Chair, John Glover-  
10 Secretary, Paul Prescott and Terri Behm.

11 Minute Taker: Danae Marotta

12 Public: Maggie McCabe- Amherst NH and community members.

13 **ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

14 I. CALL TO ORDER – Superintendent Peter Warburton

15 **Superintendent Mr. Peter Warburton called the Meeting to order at 6:00 PM.**

## 16 II. ELECTION OF SCHOOL BOARD OFFICERS

## 17 A. Chairman

18 **Ms. Elizabeth Kuzsma made a Motion to nominate Ms. Galen Tremblay as Chair. Mr. Paul**  
19 **Prescott seconded. The vote was unanimous. Motion passed.**

20 Ms. Tremblay then welcomed the public and new Board Members Ms. Terri Behm and Mr. John  
21 Glover.

## 22 B. Vice-Chairman

23 **Mr. Paul Prescott made a Motion to nominate Ms. Elizabeth Kuzsma as Vice- Chair. Mr.**  
24 **John Glover seconded the Motion. The vote was unanimous, Motion passed.**

## 25 C. Secretary

26 **Ms. Terri Behm made a Motion to nominate Mr. John Glover as Secretary Mr. Paul**  
27 **Prescott seconded the Motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion passed.**

## 28 III. COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

29 Discussion ensued over committee assignments. They are as follows:

30 Chairman Galen Tremblay

31 Vice-Chair-Beth Kuzsma

32 Secretary-John Glover

33 **By Committee Members**

34 Amherst PTA Liaison-Beth Kuzsma

35 Mont Vernon School Board Liaison-Paul Prescott

36 Manifest-Terri Behm, John Glover

37 Policy-Galen Tremblay, John Glover

38 Ways and Means Committee- Paul Prescott, John Glover

39 Facilities Expendable Trust Fund- Paul Prescott, Beth Kuzsma

40 • *5 Voting Members*

41 • *2 School Board members*

42 • *2 Citizens*

43 • *Liaison from Amherst Board of Selectmen*

44 • *Non-Voting – Ways & Means; 2*

45 *Administrators*

46 *2 ASB Members:*

47 RSEC-Galen Tremblay

48 AEA Negotiations-Galen Tremblay, Beth Kuzsma

49 ASSA Negotiations-Galen Tremblay, John Glover

50 Town of Amherst Liaison- John Glover

51 CIP- Galen Tremblay, Terri Behm

52 Recreation-Terri Behm

53 Brick School Committee-Galen Tremblay, Beth Kuzsma

54 Wellness Committee-Beth Kuzsma, John Glover

55 **IV. APPOINTMENT OF SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICIALS**

56 **A. Deputy Treasurer**

57 **Ms. Elizabeth Kuzsma made a Motion to nominate Ms. Peg Bennett as Deputy Treasurer.**

58 **Mr. John Glover seconded the Motion. The vote was unanimous, Motion passed.**

59 **Ms. Galen Tremblay closed the Organizational Meeting at 6:15 PM**

60 **REGULAR MEETING**

61 I. CALL TO ORDER

62 **Chair Ms. Galen Tremblay called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:15 PM.**

63 II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

64 A. Principals' reports

65 Ms. Tremblay asked the Board if they had any questions for Mr. St. Amand.

66 Mr. Larry Ballard, AMS Chorus Teacher, then discussed that he has a video of the AMS Chorus  
67 singing a song called "Winter Lullaby"

68 Mr. Ballard then noted that the students worked very hard and were very cooperative.

69 Principal Porter Dodge added that they have recently wrapped up the production of the Lion  
70 King and that everyone did a wonderful job. He noted that there were 4 shows and he was very  
71 impressed.

72 He noted that they are a NELMS Spotlight School and showed the Board their new banner.

73 He thanked the PTA for sponsoring the screening of "Screenagers" and that they had 80  
74 attendees.

75 Principal Dodge also discussed that SRO's Mr. Mike Knox and Mr. John Smith ran an internet  
76 safety program and that it is a huge issue now and that they want to get that out to the parents.

77 Superintendent Warburton asked Principal Dodge to explain how AMS became a Spotlight  
78 School.

79 Mr. Dodge then explained the lengthy process for becoming a Spotlight School noting the  
80 vetting process. He mentioned that they have great things for students in the STEM and STEAM  
81 categories.

82 He then discussed all of the donations that they have received for the Maker Space.

83 Ms. Behm asked about the amount of Spotlight Schools in NH.

84 Principal Dodge replied, less than 10% of the middle schools in NE are a Spotlight School.

85 The Board thanked Principal Dodge.

86 □ Young Inventors

87 Ms. McIntyre noted that the Invention Convention 2017 was on Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup> and that  
88 they had great participation with approx. 100 young inventors.

89 The first team showed the Board their invention of the Glove Wire Warmer and described how it  
90 works.

91 Mr. Prescott asked the students what was the hardest part of their invention.

92 Mr. Glover asked if they had made two.

93 The second team then showed their invention of the Tug Toy Heat Leash and described how it  
94 works.

95 Both student teams noted that they would work with a partner in the future and enjoyed their  
96 inventions.

97 Ms. McIntyre thanked the School Board, Administration and everyone for their support adding  
98 that it is her favorite night of the year.

99 The Board thanked the students and congratulated them on their inventions.

#### 100 B. Pillar reports

101 Mr. Prescott thanked Ms. Meg Beauchamp, Director of Student Services, for the Special  
102 Education Roundtable on March 16<sup>th</sup> 2017. He noted that she did a wonderful job and was  
103 impressed by her knowledge.

104 Superintendent Warburton added that they are revisiting the Strategic Plan with possible  
105 changes. He added that they will discuss it further at the SAU board meeting on April 11<sup>th</sup>.

#### 106 III. PUBLIC COMMENT

107 No Public Comment

#### 108 IV. CONSENT AGENDA

##### 109 A. Minutes

110 1. February 16, 2017

111 2. March 6, 2017

112 3. March 21, 2017

##### 113 B. Treasurer's report

114 1. February 2017

##### 115 C. Unanticipated Revenue

116 1. Donation: \$1,000 from Robert and Alexis Stevenson to support the AMS  
117 Lacrosse Team. (Student Activities Fund)

118 2. Unanticipated Revenue: \$2,500 from Walmart to support the Innovation and  
119 Design Lab. (Special Revenue Fund)

120

121 Ms. Tremblay pulled the March 6<sup>th</sup> 2017 minutes.

122 She noted the change from:

123 *"A motion was made seconded by Jim Manning to accept the resignation of the Clark/Wilkins*  
124 *Principal, Gerry St. Amand with regret."*

125 To

126 *“A motion was made, by Amy Facey seconded by Jim Manning to accept the resignation of the*  
127 *Clark/Wilkins Principal, Gerry St. Amand with regret.”*

128 **Ms. Elizabeth Kuzsma made a Motion to accept Consent Agenda items A. Minutes 1.**  
129 **February 16, 2017 2. March 6, 2017, as amended, and 3. March 21, 2017. Mr. Paul Prescott**  
130 **seconded the Motion. 3 in favor, Motion passed. Ms. Terri Behm and Mr. John Glover**  
131 **abstained.**

132 **Mr. Paul Prescott made a Motion to accept Consent Agenda items B. Treasurer’s report 1.**  
133 **February 2017, C. Unanticipated Revenue, 1. Donation: \$1,000 from Robert and Alexis**  
134 **Stevenson to support the AMS Lacrosse Team. (Student Activities Fund) and 2.**  
135 **Unanticipated Revenue: \$2,500 from Walmart to support the Innovation and Design Lab.**  
136 **(Special Revenue Fund). Mr. John Glover seconded the Motion. The vote was unanimous,**  
137 **Motion passed.**

138 V. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS

139 VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

140 VII. INFORMATIONAL

141 A. Science Curriculum

142 Ms. Landwehrle noted that the Grade 5-8 Science Curriculum is in the agenda packet.

143 Ms. Behm asked a question about the grade 5 science curriculum.

144 Ms. Landwehrle noted that it is more hands on and aligns to the standards.

145 She asked Principal Dodge if he wanted to add anything.

146 Mr. Dodge added that the teachers are really accepting of the curriculum and that they want to be  
147 ready to be a Tier One school next year.

148 Ms. Landwehrle remarked that they need approval from the School Board in April or May to be  
149 a Tier One school.

150 Mr. Prescott asked if there are any cons with becoming a Tier One School.

151 Mr. Glover asked about the source of the curriculum.

152 Ms. Landwehrle replied that most of the content is from the Next Generation Science Standards  
153 (NGSS) State Standards. She added that the curriculum is then created from those standards.

154 Ms. Behm asked if they align with the new books this year.

155 Ms. Landwehrle replied that they are piloting the new science books now with two different  
156 resources. She noted that they will be updating the Board in June.

157 The Board thanked Ms. Landwehrle.

158 B. SBAC – Informational Only

159 They are starting the Smarter Balanced Assessment on Monday at Clark/Wilkins.

160 She then discussed the English language Arts results for spring 2016 and compared them to State  
161 Level Results.

162 She also reviewed the Math results for spring 2016 and then the Amherst results compared the  
163 State Level Results.

164 Ms. Kuzsma asked a question about spring 2015 grade 4 math results and following the student  
165 cohort.

166 Ms. Landwehrle then reviewed the Comparative District Data- English Language Arts- 2016 for  
167 Grades 3-8 Percent at Level and above and noted that ASD is within a few percentage points of  
168 other districts.

169 Discussion ensued over test results.

170 The Board thanked Ms. Landwehrle.

171 C. Extension – Clark-Wilkins Grades 2-4

172 Principal St. Amand started by giving background information about Extension Block. He  
173 remarked that it is a 30 minute extension of time and support students in targeted areas of  
174 instruction. He added that it began in October of this year, for grades 2-4 in math, literacy and  
175 social skills.

176 He added that some of the students were already receiving instruction at the beginning of the  
177 year in reading and then it continued on as Extension Block. He remarked that some students  
178 thought that it was very special.

179 He then mentioned that they had created a staff survey about Extension Block, via Survey  
180 Monkey, to which 18 of the potential 28 staff members responded. He then reviewed the varying  
181 results of the survey.

182 Mr. Prescott asked about one of the teacher comments.

183 Mr. St. Amand replied about the amount of days that Extension Block could be possible. He  
184 added that it would not be in the best interest to have Extension Block 5 days a week. He noted  
185 that they will not have it on Tuesdays due to scheduling conflicts, late start days etc.

186 He also added that they have a Scheduling Committee and will be addressing Extension Block.

187 He added that it is his belief that it has value and benefit and hopes that it continues in the future.

188 Ms. Tremblay then asked the logistics of Extension Block.

189 Ms. Behm applauded Principal St. Amand for his research in what other school districts are  
190 doing and success with Extension Block.

191 She then asked if the students choose their extension block.  
192 Principal St. Amand replied, no, they could however give a preference as to which they wanted  
193 to do.  
194 Ms. Kuzsma commented on parent notification and if that would be possible.  
195 Mr. St. Amand noted that he could certainly provide that if needed.  
196 Mr. Glover asked if there was any connectivity between the Next Generation Science Standards  
197 (NGSS) and Extension Block.  
198 Mr. St. Amand replied that even in Kindergarten that students do formulate how things work.  
199 The Board thanked Principal St. Amand.

#### 200 D. Assessment, Grading and Reporting Update

201 Ms. Landwehrle discussed that the Assessment, Grading and Reporting Committee was formed  
202 almost a year ago with 25 or so diverse members working on redesigning the grading and  
203 reporting system. She added that they are researching competency based grading and  
204 performance based assessment. She also added that PACE work is also helping as well.  
205 She noted that it is a big project researching effective grading practices. She then discussed the  
206 various ways that she and committee members researched assessment grading, noting Dr.  
207 Thomas Guskey's work and book, *On Your Mark*. She added that he was a great resource.  
208 She then discussed some of the graphics that were on the projector and added that she would  
209 send the Board Members the links.  
210 Discussion ensued.  
211 Mr. Glover commented on personalized learning.  
212 Ms. Kuzsma commented on the Vision of the Graduate and that they will set up times for public  
213 input. She added that it will be for all grade levels but unsure of where it will take place.  
214 Mr. Glover asked about the performance tasks.  
215 Ms. Landwehrle reviewed what a competencies and performance tasks are.  
216 The Board thanked Ms. Landwehrle.

#### 217 E. Water and Air Quality Testing Schedule

218 Mr. Adam Steel, Business Administrator, then discussed that beginning in May, they will start  
219 water and air quality testing at all SAU 39 buildings.  
220 Mr. Prescott noted that it was a great idea and asked where the funding will be coming from.  
221 Mr. Steel replied that it is paid out of Repairs and Maintenance.  
222 Mr. Glover asked if they will be testing for PFOA's.

223 Ms. Behm commented on the taste of the water.

224 Mr. Steel replied that the taste should be consistent throughout the building.

225 Mr. Glover asked if they will be testing for radon.

226 Mr. Steel replied that he will get back to Mr. Glover.

227 The Board thanked Mr. Steel.

## 228 VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

229

230 Ms. Maggie McCabe, Amherst NH, commented on SBAC 2014 and 2015. She noted that there  
231 seems to be a problem with 5<sup>th</sup> grade math and suggested looking at the teachers. She added that  
232 it is not the cohort of students.

233 Ms. Landwehrle replied that they are looking at it closely.

234 Ms. McCabe commented that she is concerned about PACE and that the school is a pilot. She  
235 then gave the Board a handout of her research. *Education Week 2015*

## 236 IX. ACTION ITEM

### 237 A. Policies – 1st Reading

238  BEC – Non-Public Sessions

239  BEDC – Quorum

240  BIBA – School Board Conferences, Conventions, and Workshops

241  BK – School Board Memberships

242  IGD – Curriculum Adoption

243  IGE – Citizen Request for Exception to Specific Course Materials

244  IHAM – Health Education and Exemption from Instruction

245 Ms. Tremblay noted that these are for a first reading and asked the Board to take a look at them.  
246 She added that there are a few that they have gotten feedback on.

247 Superintendent Warburton added that they will be discussing this in further detail at the at the  
248 next SAU board meeting on April 11<sup>th</sup>.

### 249 B. Professional Nominations

250 To be discussed in Non-Public Session

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



252 **Mr. John Glover made a Motion to enter into Non-Public Session RSA 91-A: 3 II. (a) (b) (c)**  
253 **at 8:23PM. Ms. Elizabeth Kuzsma seconded the Motion. The vote was unanimous, Motion**  
254 **passed.**

255 **Ms. Tremblay called a Roll Call: Tremblay-Yes, Kuzsma- Yes, Glover- Yes, Prescott-Yes**  
256 **and Behm-Yes.**

257 XI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

258 Chair Galen Tremblay noted the following future agenda items:

- 259     • Science Curriculum Approval (May or June)

260