

1 Amherst School Board

2 Thursday, April 20th, 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, Bethany Bernasconi-
7 Dean of Instruction AMS, Amanda Rogers- 7th Grade Science Teacher AMS, and Susan
8 Sprinkle- 7th Grade Social Studies Teacher AMS

9 Amherst School Board: - Galen Tremblay- Chair, John Glover- Secretary, Paul Prescott and Teri
10 Behm.

11 Minute Taker: Danae Marotta

12 Public: Craig Fraley- Amherst Recreation Department, Nikki Fraley- Candidate for the Assistant
13 Principal position at Clark/Wilkins, AMS GSI Students, and community members.

14 I. CALL TO ORDER

15 **Chair Ms. Galen Tremblay called the Meeting to order at 6:08 PM.**

16 She then thanked the community members that were in attendance and added that Ms. Nikki
17 Fraley, candidate for the Assistant Principal position at Clark/Wilkins is here.

18 Ms. Tremblay then turned the discussion over to Principal Dodge for a special student
19 presentation.

20 II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

21 A. Principals' reports

22 Principal Dodge noted that they had their Global Science Initiative today and it went great. This
23 annual event continues to present students with challenging projects. The GSI Project is
24 experiencing a recast this year as "Eagle Tank" similar to the popular television show "Shark
25 Tank" where teams focus on engineering solutions to global science issues. District Curriculum
26 Coordinators and staff from the Mont Vernon Village School and Clark Wilkins Elementary
27 School judged, along with some Souhegan High School science students.
28

29 Ms. Bethany Bernasconi, Dean of Instruction, then thanked all that came and then discussed the
30 Global Science Initiative. She added that the GSI has been a long standing tradition. She then
31 added that students in the past 5 or so weeks have been researching a global topic such as
32 pollution, or food shortage and have been researching ways to solve it.

33 She then discussed how the students did their work and identified the inventions there as the First
34 Responder Sash, Fresh Filtration 5000, the Food Viability Kit, Grow Green, and MOSC.

35 The students then discussed each of their products.

36 Ms. Amanda Rogers, 7th Grade Science Teacher AMS, commented that the students have
37 redesigned and documented the changes.

38 She asked the students how they handled the redesign.

39 The students then discussed how they made their changes.

40 Ms. Bernasconi then asked the groups how the engineering process worked for them.

41 One of the students then described in detail how their water filtration system worked.

42 Superintendent Warburton then asked the students what they have learned from this project.

43 One student replied that they got over their fear of public speaking, another student replied that
44 they learned a lot about engineering.

45 Superintendent Warburton noted that he had attended two presentations today and was greatly
46 impressed. He then thanked the students.

47 Mr. Prescott also commented that he was impressed by the students' inventions and
48 perseverance.

49 Ms. Rodgers remarked that the students have shown growth and it was so much more than
50 science. She then thanked Ms. Tracey Gagne, 7th Grade Science Teacher AMS, and added that it
51 was a collaboration. She noted that she is so proud of the 7th grade.

52 The Board thanked the students.

53 Principal Dodge then went back to his Principal's Report. He remarked that there is a lot of
54 activity going on with sports. He noted that there is a lot of participation.

55 He discussed that on Monday April 17th as part of their Parent Partnership meetings, AMS
56 hosted former NH Supreme Court Justice, Mr. John Broderick, who spoke about mental health
57 awareness. He added that Mr. Broderick is part of the statewide campaign "Change Direction
58 NH", and has a personal story about knowing and identifying the "five signs" of emotional
59 distress. This initiative is the first statewide effort of a larger national campaign to change the
60 culture of mental health in America. He mentioned that local area schools and administrations
61 were invited.

62 Principal St. Amand then discussed that the Netflix program, 13 Reasons Why, was not
63 appropriate for children.

64 Superintendent Warburton agreed that it was not appropriate and to be careful.

65 Mr. Dodge then added how excited he was for the spring sports and that it is fun to watch.

66 Principal St. Amand then noted that the SBAC is being administered to all third and fourth grade
67 students throughout the month of April and into early May. He added that he will share
68 additional information at the next ASB meeting.

69 He then discussed that NWEA testing for all students in grades K, 1, and 2 will start in early
70 May and continue through the balance of the month. Fourth grade students will take the Science
71 NECAP in mid-May.

72 Mr. St. Amand then invited the Board to come and observe an SBAC session. He then discussed
73 how it is administered and no two teachers have done it the same. He added that it is
74 computerized and that it has a time constraint. He mentioned that the third grade will restart it if
75 they are not happy with their work but the 4th grade is a little better with it.

76 He then discussed his concerns with how much assessments they should be giving.

77 Mr. Glover asked about the time frame for the assessments.

78 Mr. St. Amand then noted that they will be finishing around May 8th, and added that you could
79 certainly attend a make-up assessment.

80 Mr. Prescott commented that the recent postings on www.oneschoolstreet.org has been exciting.

81 Ms. Tremblay asked a question about Kindergarten enrollment procedures.

82 Mr. St. Amand replied that once they have the parent email that is how information is sent out.

83 He added that they are in good standing with 129 students in Kindergarten, in 6 classes.

84 Mr. Glover asked about the amount of assessments.

85 Principal St. Amand noted that the amount of assessments need further discussion.

86 Ms. Tremblay asked if they ever test on samples.

87 Mr. St. Amand discussed that they will be doing some Kindergarten.

88 Mr. Glover asked if Ms. Christine Landwehrle is aware of this concern.

89 Mr. St. Amand replied, yes. He added that finding the physical places to take this test is also a
90 challenge.

91 Mr. Glover asked Principal Dodge if he finds testing a concern as well.

92 Principal Dodge replied, yes.

93 Discussion ensued over assessments.

94 The Board thanked Principal Dodge and Principal St. Amand.

95 B. Pillar reports

96 Ms. Tremblay noted that they have had the discussion at the recent SAU meeting and that they
97 will be discussing this at future meetings.

98 III. PUBLIC COMMENT

99 No Public Comment

100 IV. CONSENT AGENDA

101 A. Minutes

102 1. March 30, 2017

103 B. Unanticipated Revenue - Student Activity Fund

104 1. \$500 donation from Granite State Elite Sports LLC to support the AMS
105 Lacrosse Team.

106 2. \$500 donation from 4 Leaf Lacrosse New England to support the AMS
107 Lacrosse Team.

108 3. \$429 unanticipated revenue from Hannaford Helps Schools Program.

109 C. Budget Transfers

110 1. TSFR 2017 006

111 2. TSFR 2017 007

112 D. MS22 Voted Appropriations

113 **Mr. Paul Prescott made a Motion to accept the Consent Agenda items A. Minutes 1. March**
114 **30, 2017 B. Unanticipated Revenue - Student Activity Fund, 1. \$500 donation from Granite**
115 **State Elite Sports LLC to support the AMS Lacrosse Team., 2. \$500 donation from 4 Leaf**
116 **Lacrosse New England to support the AMS Lacrosse Team., 3. \$429 unanticipated revenue**
117 **from Hannaford Helps Schools Program., C. Budget Transfers 1. TSFR 2017 006, 2. TSFR**
118 **2017 007 and D. MS22 Voted Appropriations. Mr. John Glover seconded the Motion. The**
119 **vote was unanimous, Motion passed.**

120 V. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS

121 VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

122 VII. INFORMATIONAL

123 A. FY17 ASD 3rd Quarter Projection

124 Mr. Adam Steel noted that a net surplus of \$110,000 is projected for the Amherst School District
125 as of March 31, 2017.

126 He then added that Special Education Transportation expenses for the remainder of the year are
127 unclear and purchase orders have been unencumbered at this time.

128 The Board thanked Mr. Steel.

129 B. Amherst Recreation Update – Wilkins fence

130 Mr. Steel noted that Mr. Craig Fraley, Director of Amherst Recreation Department is here to
131 discuss the update on the Wilkins fence.

132 Mr. Craig Fraley discussed the fence on Jones Road is in need of repair. He then described the
 133 proposed new fence as a stockade fence similar to the one that is at Joshua's Park, Amherst NH.
 134 He added that there will be a picnic area, and sitting stones for people to sit with shrubbery along
 135 the fence. He added that he is looking for final approval.

136 Mr. Prescott then asked for a time line for approval.

137 Mr. Fraley replied, within a month, and added that the Amherst Garden Center will provide
 138 shrubs at cost.

139 Ms. Tremblay then asked about the historical society.

140 Mr. Fraley discussed that this fence is higher and have three railings as opposed to two.

141 Mr. Prescott asked if there was any action that needed to be taken tonight.

142 Mr. Steel replied, if he is unsure about anything say something now.

143 The Board had no further comments or concerns.

144 The Board thanked Mr. Fraley.

145 C. AEA/ASSA Negotiations

146 Ms. Tremblay discussed that they will begin negotiations with the AEA/ASSA.

147 VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

148 No Public Comment

149 IX. ACTION ITEMS

150 A. Policies – 2nd Reading

151 BIBA – School Board Conferences, Conventions, and Workshops

152 IGD – Curriculum Adoption

153 Ms. Tremblay noted that there are two policies on the agenda for tonight.

154 Mr. Prescott asked if they had seen these before.

155 Ms. Tremblay replied, yes, this is a second reading.

156 Mr. Glover asked about “basic course of study” in policy IGD – Curriculum Adoption and if
 157 there is a limit.

158 Superintendent Warburton replied, that is not a bad question and something to look into. He
 159 added that he will consult with the NHSBA.

160 **Mr. Paul Prescott made a Motion to accept policies BIBA – School Board Conferences,**
 161 **Conventions, and Workshops and IGD – Curriculum Adoption as presented. Ms. Teri**
 162 **Behm seconded the Motion. The vote was unanimous, Motion passed.**

163 B. Science Curriculum Approval

164 Ms. Tremblay noted that Ms. Landwehrle had presented this a few weeks ago and that she does
165 not see a problem with it.

166 Mr. Prescott agreed that he does not have any concerns.

167 Mr. Glover added that it is a broad science curriculum.

168 Ms. Bernasconi discussed the Next Generation Science Standards, with the performance
169 expectations to analyze and ask questions in a variety of ways. She added that teachers have the
170 flexibility to add new topics as they come up, and for the students to ask questions in the areas
171 that they feel passionate about.

172 Mr. Glover then asked about the process of modifying a topic.

173 Ms. Bernasconi replied, they would have to bring it back to the Board, they have some flexibility
174 but there is room for creativity.

175 Mr. Glover noted that it is earth science driven.

176 Ms. Bernasconi then replied, that the Board is certainly welcome to attend and sit in on a class.

177 Ms. Behm asked how the teachers handle the flexibility.

178 Ms. Bernasconi remarked that there are more performance based assessments, and it adds a layer
179 of validation to their work.

180 Ms. Behm commented that she is happy with what is going on.

181 Ms. Bernasconi added that they are in a great place.

182 **Mr. Paul Prescott made a Motion to accept the new science curriculum. Mr. John Glover**
183 **seconded the Motion. The vote was unanimous, Motion passed.**

184 C. Capital Needs Assessment Approval

185 Mr. Steel discussed the amount of \$19,800 for the capital needs assessment.

186 **Mr. Paul Prescott made a Motion to authorize the expenditure of \$19,800 for the capital**
187 **needs assessment to be performed by On-Site Insight in time for the FY'19 budget process,**
188 **to be expended from year end surplus. Mr. John Glover seconded the Motion. The vote**
189 **was unanimous, Motion passed.**

190 Mr. Glover asked if this was completed in the past.

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

192 A. Personnel

193 **Mr. John Glover made a Motion to enter into Non-Public Session RSA 91-A: 3 II. (a) (b) (c)**
194 **at 7:15 PM. Ms. Teri Behm seconded the Motion.**

195 **Ms. Tremblay then called a Roll Call: Tremblay-Yes, Behm-Yes, Prescott-Yes and Glover-**
196 **Yes.**

197 Minutes Recorder: John Glover

198 Entered non-public session at 7:16 pm.

199 **Other persons present during non-public session:** Peter Warburton, Superintendent, Gerry St.
200 Amand, Clark-Wilkins Principal, Porter Dodge, AMS Principal, Christine Landwehrle, Director
201 of Curriculum & PD, Adam Steel, Business Administrator

202 **Discussion:**

203 Personnel

204 **A motion was made to exit non-public session by Paul Prescott and seconded by Galen**
205 **Tremblay.**

206 **Ms. Tremblay then called a Roll Call: Tremblay-Yes, Behm-Yes, Prescott-Yes and Glover-**
207 **Yes.**

208 At 8:00 pm Board resumed public session.

209 **Motion to approve the nomination of Kathleen Murphy as the Clark-Wilkins Associate**
210 **Assistant Principal for 2017-18 and Assistant Principal for 2018-19 made by John Glover.**
211 **Paul Prescott seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion passed.**

212 **Motion to approve the nomination of Nicola Fraley as the Clark-Wilkins Associate**
213 **Principal for 2017-18 and Principal for 2018-19 made by Paul Prescott. Terri Behm**
214 **seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion passed.**

215 **At 8:06 pm motion was made by John Glover and seconded by Paul Prescott to adjourn the**
216 **meeting. The vote was unanimous.**

217 XI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

218 Chair Ms. Galen Tremblay noted the following future agenda items:

219

- NWEA update