

MINUTES
AMHERST SCHOOL BOARD
January 23, 2006
Amherst Middle School First Floor Music Room

Page 1407

Chairperson Deborah Cort called the Board meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Present:

ATTENDANCE

Amherst School Board: Deborah Cort, Dwight Brew, Nancy Head, and Pam Dudoff (arrived at 6:15 p.m. and left at 6:30 p.m.)

Administrative Team: Howard Colter, Susan Ward, Gerry St. Amand, Kathy Skoglund, and Porter Dodge (Gerry, Kathy, and Porter left at 6:50 p.m.)

Ways & Means: Davin Desborough, CJ Butler, and Peg Bennett (all members left at 6:50 p.m.)

District Moderator: Carol Holden (left at 6:50 p.m.)

Minutes Recorder: Terri Connolly (left at 6:55 p.m.)

Deborah Cort invited comments from the public, but none were forthcoming.

PUBLIC TIME

Deborah reported the New Hampshire School Administrators Association presentation, scheduled for tonight, would be rescheduled for a future date. Howard Colter will be working on setting up the date for that presentation.

REPORTS

Building Principals

Gerry St. Amand reported on highlights from Clark and Wilkins Schools and recognized Nicole Heimark and Sue Leger for the time and effort they contributed in making the in-service day a valuable professional development opportunity for all the attendees. In an effort to promote wellness, a Weight Watchers at Work Program informational session is scheduled for January 24, 2006 at 3:20 p.m. at the Clark School. Gerry also noted quarter two grades will close on January 27, 2006 and report cards will be issued on February 10, 2006.

Porter Dodge reported highlights from the Amherst Middle School and noted the "Caught Ya Being Good!" breakfast was held on January 20, 2006, with almost 300 students recognized for a wide variety of positive behaviors. Porter also noted US Congressman Charlie Bass visited the school last Friday and addressed parents and students with a discussion on diabetes research and funding at the

federal level. Mrs. Heidi Crowell spearheaded this meeting as a representative of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Fund to raise awareness of the need for cutting edge diabetes research. Porter also reported AMS received a donation of a used 80-inch high definition television from the King family of Amherst and asked the board to formally accept this gift.

Dwight Brew moved to accept the donation of an 80-inch high definition television and to express thanks to the King family for their generosity. Nancy Head seconded the motion. All board members voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

Deborah Cort reported Warrant Article 35, which is reflective of the board's discussion of January 16, 2006, has been reviewed by the attorney. The Article reads as follows:

**Discussion of Warrant
Articles**

To see if the district will authorize the Amherst School Board to execute any and all documents necessary to carry out a lot line change with Dennis and Kathleen Olson relative to the district owned land (Map 6, Lot 96), and in so doing to transfer to the Olsons the minimum amount of land necessary to have their barn sited on their own property within the zoning setback requirements of the Town so that said barn need not be relocated, said amount of land believed to be approximately 1/10th acre more or less, in return for the payment to the District of not less than \$5,000.00.

Nancy Head moved to place the article, as written, on the warrant. Pam Dudoff seconded the motion.

It was noted this would be Article 35.

Pam Dudoff added this is a good faith effort by the district and should be recognized as such, and would hope this step resolves this issue.

The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

There was a brief discussion with regard to publicizing the warrant article, to which Nancy Head suggested submitting an article to the paper, *The Citizen*. The board concurred that this is an appropriate communication action and to move forward with the communication.

Nancy Head moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, dated December 2005. Dwight Brew seconded the motion.

Treasurer's Report

CJ Butler reported the accounts are in good shape and all expenses are paid up as planned.

All board members voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

Susan Ward presented an update of the monthly financials and noted the expenditure report was generated in order to review variances. Electricity and heating oil costs are being monitored closely and there is a deficit projection of \$74,000 for those accounts. The PSNH rate increase is 12% and the SAU had projected an 18% increase so this overage will help the account. Susan and her staff will continue to focus on deficit accounts and have a report by February 2006. Susan noted there is also an effort underway in working with the building principals to look at any year-end surplus and how the surplus may be applied to the deficit accounts. Susan anticipates substantial budget transfers in February 2006.

Monthly Financials

Nancy Head reported she had contacted the Mariance office, but Frank Mariance was out of the office and will be back tomorrow. Nancy anticipates having some questions addressed when he returns to the office.

Master Plan Update

Dwight Brew moved to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2006 meeting. Nancy Head seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as amended:

Approval October 3, 2005 Minutes

Page 1400, 5th paragraph, change to read: "...which will be signed to continue the Master Plan process."

Page 1400, 5th paragraph, change "Marance" to "Mariance"

Page 1401, 5th paragraph, change 2nd sentence to read: "...discussed achieving a balance of \$300,000 out of surplus and through taxation. The motion passed.

Dwight Brew moved to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2006 meeting. Nancy Head seconded the motion. The minutes were accepted without amendment. The motion passed.

**Other
Superintendent
Search Committee**

It was agreed that Nancy Head would represent the Amherst School Board on the Superintendent Search Committee.

Deborah Cort offered to represent the ASB on the SAU 39 Consolidation Committee.

**SAU 39 Consolidation
Committee**

The Board discussed the upcoming Deliberative Session, which is scheduled for February 6, 2006.

**Discussion to
Commentary from
Public Hearing for
Deliberative Session**

Nancy Head moved and Dwight Brew seconded to adjourn the meeting. All board members voted in favor and the meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT