

**MINUTES
AMHERST SCHOOL BOARD
JUNE 5, 2008
AMHERST TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Present:

Amherst School Board: Peg Bennett, Dwight Brew, Peter de Bruyn Kops (joined at 6:05 p.m.), Rob Graybill and Nancy Head.
Administrative Team: Porter Dodge, Nicole Heimarck, Dr. Mary Jennings, Gerry St. Amand, Elizabeth Shankel, and Renea Sparks.
Minutes Recorder: Peg Bennett

ATTENDANCE

Chair Dwight Brew called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**APPOINTMENT OF
NEW SCHOOL BOARD
MEMBER**

A motion was made by Peg Bennett to appoint new school board member, Peter de Bruyn Kops to complete year two of Pam Dudoff's second term. The motion was seconded by Rob Graybill. All members of the board voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed.

Peter de Bruyn Kops joined the Board after being sworn in Jan Bunker.

A. Principal's Reports – Peg Bennett asked Gerry St. Amand if there would be a delay regarding “meet and greets” due to the summer renovations. Gerry replied that the “meet and greets” would happen on day 1 of the new school year.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

B. Waiver for Wilkins Fire - Dr. Jennings announced that the district received a letter from the state's Commissioner of Education, Lyonel Tracy, stating that our request for a one day waiver for the Wilkins fire day has been granted.

C. Board – Thank You Coffees – Nancy Head explained she thought it would be a worthwhile gesture for board members to thank the teachers at informal coffee gatherings. She further discussed the idea of talking with them about their ideas and accomplishments in this informal setting. All board members agreed it was a good idea. Nancy will determine a schedule and distribute it to board members.

Dwight Brew invited comments from the Public, but there were none.

**III. PUBLIC
COMMENTS**

Dwight Brew asked board members if they wanted anything pulled from the Consent Agenda.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

Nancy Head made a motion to pull the April 3, 2008 and May 8, 2008 minutes until the board has a formal minute-taker. These were pulled from the agenda.

A motion was made by Nancy Head and seconded by Rob Graybill to accept Consent Agenda Items B. Budget-1. Treasurer's Report – April 2008; D. Resignation Letter; E. Contribution to Music Activity Fund.

Consent Agenda items C. – Transfers and F. – Line Item FY09 Budget Adoption are to be discussed during V. Presentations, C. FY08 Budget Surplus – Proposed Projects

A. Year/Goal Reports – Nicole Heimark presented an overview slide presentation. Gerry St. Amand presented the portion relating to Clark and Wilkins schools. Porter Dodge introduced Mary Westwater and Patty Wons to present the Amherst Middle School portion of the presentation.

V. PRESENTATIONS

Discussion ensued regarding the presentations.

Dwight Brew thanked the schools for having student-based goals for year two (as compared to teacher-based professional development goals in year one).

Dr. Mary Jennings commended the schools for including the para-professionals in their goals. This was not originally intended. We should see favorable results when our para-professionals have the same knowledge base as our professional staff.

B. Renovations Update – Nancy Head informed the board that the planning phase has come to an end. They are now waiting for Guaranteed Maximum Price, then bids will go out. The building oversight committee has met and they have made decisions around windows, insulation, soils and concrete testing and sprinklers.

Jim Miner has received bids for the asbestos abatement that has been found in the ceiling tiles. The asbestos issue is not part of the renovation package and the work will be paid for out of the 07/08 operating budget with is running under this year.

A motion was made by Nancy Head and seconded by Rob Graybill to award asbestos abatement to Envirovantage for \$47,000. All board members voted in favor of the motion and

the motion passed unanimously.

Budget Transfers – Budget Transfer 200810

Betty explained that we currently have a surplus because of under spending in electricity, heating oil, and custodial salaries. By transferring money from these line items into maintenance, we can address some of the proposed renovations with money from the 07/08 operating budget.

Rob Graybill made a motion and the motion was seconded by Nancy Head to accept budget transfer 200810. All board members voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Budget Transfer 200811 – Current surplus from teacher salaries is to be used to purchase office equipment.

Nancy Head made a motion to accept budget transfer 200811. Rob Graybill seconded the motion. All board members voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

A. Late Start Proposal – Mary Jennings introduced Nicole Heimarck for her presentation of slides (see attached). Discussion ensued and Ellen Roos Unger, a member of the community, spoke in favor of the decision to implement late starts at the Clark, Wilkins and Middle schools.

VI. ACTION ITEMS

Nancy Head made a motion to test late starts for the 08/09 school year. The motion was seconded by Peg Bennett and all board members voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Policy Waiver: Auditor – Mary Jennings recommended that we waive the audit policy and not switch auditors, despite the fact that Melanson Heath's three-year contract is up. Betty explained that we only received 2 responses to 17 RFPs that were sent out. One bidder has no experience auditing school districts. The other bidder was Melanson Heath. Betty asked if we can retain Melanson Heath for an additional two years to keep the three districts, Amherst, Mont Vernon and Souhegan, aligned. Mont Vernon and Souhegan are on the same rotation and Melanson Heath's contract is up with them in two years.

Nancy Head made a motion and was seconded by Rob Graybill that we waive the policy DIE on audits and that we contract with Melanson Heath for two more years. The board members voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed

unanimously.

C. – Adoption of Science Curriculum – Board members congratulated Nicole for leading a talented group of professionals in revising the Science Curriculum across the three districts.

Nancy Head made a motion and was seconded by Peg Bennett to adopt the science curriculum as presented at the SAU Board Meeting on May 29, 2008. Four (4) board members voted in favor and one (1) abstained.

D. Policies – 2nd Reading – **Nancy Head made a motion to adopt policies DFA, IF, IHAK, IHBBA, IHCA, IJO, IJOC, IKB, IL, ILBA as presented in the packet. The motion was seconded by Rob Graybill. Four (4) board members voted in favor and one (1) abstained.**

E. Recreation Lease – Betty Shankel presented the lease. The new lease will replace the existing lease that expires in June 2009. The lease is between the Amherst School District, Souhegan Cooperative School District, and the Town of Amherst.

Nancy Head made a motion to accept the lease agreement with amendments between the Amherst School District, the Souhegan Cooperative School District and the Town of Amherst. Voting: 5 ayes, motion carried unanimously.

Policies – 1st Reading –

IJ – Instructional Materials

to be worked on over the summer by Nicole and Mary Jennings.

JICD – Student Conduct, Discipline and Due Process

Discussion ensued; no changes were made

JFAB – Admission of Tuition and Non-Resident Students

In Section VI, line 5 change from District's to Districts

EGA – School District Internet Access for Students

Discussion ensued; no changes were made.

EGAD – Copyright Compliance

Discussion ensued; no changes were made.

EHAA – Computer Security, E-Mail and Internet Communications

Discussion ensued; no changes were made.

Policies as discussed with changes will be presented at the next Amherst School Board meeting and placed on the agenda for a 2nd Reading.

Peter de Bruyn Kops is the new Amherst School Board Member **OTHER**

VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS

on the policy committee. He is taking over Pam Dudoff's position.

The meeting was called to adjourn at 9:00 p.m.

ADJOURN

A motion was made by Nancy Head to go into non-public session and seconded by Peg Bennett. Dwight Brew, Nancy Head, Peg Bennett, Rob Graybill and Peter de Bruyn Kops all voted yes unanimously.

NON PUBLIC SESSION

NOMINATIONS

A motion was made to come out of non-public session by Rob Graybill and seconded by Nancy Head. Dwight Brew, Peg Bennett, Nancy Head, Rob Graybill and Peter de Bruyn Kops all voted yes unanimously.

Rob Graybill made a motion to hire Jennifer Eccleston as a .5 FTE Math Specialist, Pam Winter as a .5 FTE Literacy Teacher, Katy Nagy as a full time FTE 4th Grade Teacher and Mary-Elizabeth Cregan as a full time Technology Integration Specialist at the Wilkins School. The motion was seconded by Nancy Head. 4 members voted in favor and 1 member abstained from voting.

Nancy Head made a motion to change FTE Curriculum Enrichment position to a .5 FTE Math Specialist and .5 FTE Math Coach at the Wilkins School. The motion was seconded by Peg Bennett. 4 members voted in favor and 1 member abstained from voting.

REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING

Peg Bennett made a motion to transfer .4 FTE Math Specialist teaching position and .6 FTE Comprehensive Tech Ed teaching position to 1 FTE Math Coach at Amherst Middle School. The motion was seconded by Nancy Head. 4 members voted in favor and 1 member abstained from voting.

Motion to adjourn at 9:35 p.m. by Rob Graybill and was seconded by Peg Bennett.

ADJOURN