

Amherst School Board
August 24, 2010

Attendance

Amherst School Board:

Nancy Head, Peter Maresco, Peg Bennett, Rob Graybill, Lucienne Foulks

Administrative Team:

Mary Athey Jennings, Nancy Maguire, Elizabeth Shankel, Porter Dodge, Gerry St. Amand

Minutes Recorder: Rob Graybill

Call to Order:

Ms. Head call to order at 6:07p.m.

Announcements:

Principals Report

The principal's reports were handed out for review. Nancy asked for explanation of the coded students and placement on teams. Porter indicated coded students were placed on two of three teams and additional aid went to those teams.

Peg inquired about the completion of the SINI plan and asked if it would be shared with the board. Porter indicated that the plan is being finalized and will be submitted shortly. The plan is not normally brought to the Board for review.

Nancy questioned the Clark-Wilkins enrollment figures. Does it normally shift this late in the summer? Gerry indicated that he will bring the final enrollments to the next Board meeting. Enrollments will still stay below original projections even if there is additional last-minute adds.

Peg questioned the enrollment last year. Last year was 712 as of June versus 638 as of September this year. Both first grade and kindergarten are in fact smaller and that is driving the lower enrollment.

SAU Budget Committee

Mary brought forward the SAU Budget Committee document and asked that the Board be prepared to nominate at the next Board meeting a citizen from Amherst to serve on the SAU Budget Committee.

Public Time:

There was no one from the public in attendance and therefore the meeting moved on from Public Time.

47 **Consent Agenda:**

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49 **Nancy called for a motion to accept the agenda items. Peg motioned and Peter**
50 **seconded. The motion was unanimously accepted.**

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52 Nancy called for any items to be pulled. Rob requested the minutes from the last
53 meeting be pulled.

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55 Rob noted the non-public meeting minutes were not included in the official minutes
56 and asked that the meeting minutes be tabled until those minutes were included and
57 reviewed at the next Board meeting.

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59 Nancy highlighted a number of corrections:

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- #76 – should be “rollout” instead of “role out”

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- #204 – Board is “leery”, not “weary”

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- #267 – should not read “embed the teachers”, should read

63

“embedded technology in the core curriculum we enhance the
64 teachers capability”

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- #289 – please clarify that the \$45K was for new technology

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- #321 – “depict” should be “deficit”

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- #421 – should be Jim Miner

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- \$438 – should be Jim Miner

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- #455 – should read “which was passed by the Legislature” omit in
70 October

71

- Please replace Charkin with Charkin throughout document to correct
72 Bruce’s last name

73

Presentations:

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FY10 Goals/FY11 Goal Setting

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77 Porter presented goal achievement results for AMS.

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Original target was 50%, moved up to 60%, then to 65% over the last few years.
80 Goal was 70% for last year.

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Porter showed how our targeted growth corresponded to national norm data.

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Example, 68.7% is in the 93rd percentile for targeted growth nationally.

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Porter indicated grade 5 in math is a concern. Down considerably over last year.

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87

Peter questioned is the % proficient projected for NECAP or actual results. Porter

88

indicated the % proficient is a projected score for how students would perform on

89

NECAP in the future.

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91 Peter indicated it becomes more difficult to achieve targeted growth as you achieve
92 higher results. Porter agreed.

93
94 Gerry presented results for Clark-Wilkins. Gerry stated K & 1 grade levels use
95 DIBELS, not NWEA. There was a drop in at-risk classification. No child is a no-risk,
96 the best you can achieve is low-risk.

97
98 Grade 5 is the only grade tested on NWEA in Fall as a baseline. All others are
99 compared to previous spring results. 4th and 5th grade are a concern given results.
100 Not making the growth targets doesn't mean that students aren't learning, it just
101 means that they aren't achieving the targeted growth.

102
103 Lucienne raised the point that it could be that the curriculum isn't challenging that
104 grade level and it should be higher. Gerry indicated that NECAP impacts the
105 SINI/DINI but not NWEA.

106
107 Nancy highlighted that overall there are a lot of kids doing well.

108
109 Lucienne questioned where the growth target came from. Gerry indicated that it
110 was a targeted growth goal developed individually for each child based on data.

111
112 Peter voiced a concern that all data targeted at test scores leads to teaching to the
113 standardized tests and misses the point about making sure students are learning.
114 Gerry agreed with Peter's concern about teaching to the test can be a concern but
115 indicated that it is one common tool for evaluation, in addition to many other points
116 regarding how a student is performing.

117
118 2010-2011 goals will come before the Board for review at the September meeting.

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121 **Discussion Items:**

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125 Policy KED
126 Mary presented policy KED and asked that the Board vote on the policy at the next
127 meeting.

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129 **Action Items:**

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132 DOE25/MS25 Reports
133 Betty presented the budget summary and the ASD is currently running a \$644K
134 surplus, which indicates the district is coming in below budget. Building and
135 grounds and SPED were the two major drivers of the surplus based on investments
136 in efficiency through the renovations (new windows, conversion to gas) and
improved delivery of services.

137 The surplus will be returned back to the taxpayers.

138

139 Nancy and Peg congratulated Betty and also Renea in particular for helping to
140 reduce SPED costs.

141

142 **Peter made a motion to accept the report as presented and authorize the**
143 **school board to sign and submit the financial report required by the State.**
144 **Lucienne seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**

145

146 **Non Public Session:**

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148 **Lucienne motioned to go into non-public session at 7:45 p.m. Peter seconded**
149 **the motion. Unanimous roll call vote was taken and Board went into non-**
150 **public session.**

151

152 Mary gave the Board an update on hiring and staffing costs. Currently the ASD
153 saved \$128K against budget through the hiring of 11 people who filled vacated
154 positions. Mary brought forward recommendations for hiring to fill two positions.
155 The Administration provided information on the candidates and answered Board
156 questions.

157

158 **Peg motioned to come out of non-public session at 8:02 p.m.. Peter seconded**
159 **the motion. A unanimous roll call vote was taken and the Board came out of**
160 **non-public session.**

161

162 **Nominations:**

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164 **Rob motioned to approve the Administration to extend offers to Caroline**
165 **Smith for the position of Preschool Case Manager at Clark-Wilkins and Jackie**
166 **Veal for the position of Literacy Coach at AMS. Peter seconded the motion.**
167 **Motion was approved unanimously.**

168

169 **Adjourn:**

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171 **Rob motioned to adjourn the meeting. Peter seconded the motion. Motion**
172 **was approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.**

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