

1 **AMHERST SCHOOL BOARD**
2 **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2011**

3
4 **ATTENDANCE**

5
6 Amherst School Board:

7 Peg Bennett, Lucienne Foulks, Nancy Head, James Manning

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9 Administrative Team:

10 Peter Warburton, Porter Dodge, Gerry St. Amand, Nicole Heimarck, Renea Sparks,
11 Betty Shankel

12
13 Minutes Taker

14 Beth Penney

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16 **PUBLIC HEARING** – Bond reissuance

17 Ms. Bennett called the hearing to order at 6:01pm.

18 Ms. Shankel discussed that this is an outstanding bond issue of 1.9 million dollars. The
19 proposal is to save money with lower interest rates, but the bond reissuance can only
20 happen one day of the year. The district would make a normal payment in FY12 and then
21 do the reissuance on July 15th 2012. There is a resolution on the agenda. The bank gives
22 a guarantee of 3% net savings with any expenses. The district needs to go out when the
23 bond bank goes out in the middle of December and the money will be held in escrow till
24 July 15 for the bond reissuance. If in July the district does not save money there will be
25 no bond reissuance. David Barnes, a lawyer, is helping the district with this. This is a
26 one time \$100,000 savings over the ten-year life of the bond.

27 The board thanked Ms. Shankel for all of her work.

28 Ms. Shankel explained that the current interest rate is 5.75%, and that she thinks the new
29 rate maybe around 3.5%. She also explained how the escrow would work.

30 Mr. Warburton thanked Ms. Shankel for her foresight and initiative.

31 **CALL TO ORDER**

Call to Order

32 Ms. Bennett called the meeting to order at 6:07pm.

33 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Announcements

34 Principals' reports

35 Mr. Dodge stated that AMS applied to the Bean Foundation for a technology grant to
36 help with the 7th grade project about global initiatives. The school worked with Kathy
37 Cooke at the Bean Foundation. AMS was awarded the grant to support the Susan Stitt
38 Global Science Initiative. Mr. Dodge asked the board to accept the funds from Bean

39 Foundation for purchase of two iPad stations containing ten iPad docking stations for a
40 total of \$12,760. Mr. Dodge thanked Linda Ferrington and Deb Hendricks for writing the
41 grant.

42 The board and Mr. Dodge discussed the benefits of iPads over laptops including the
43 applications and the cameras on the iPad.

44 **Ms. Foulks made a motion to accept the grant totaling \$12,760 from the Bean**
45 **Foundation. Mr. Manning seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.**

46 Ms. Head asked about the early release.

47 Mr. St. Amand stated it was tomorrow for parent teacher conferences.

48 Ms. Foulks discussed the new format of the principals' report and asked a few clarifying
49 questions.

50 The board and the administration discussed the new format of the principals' reports and
51 the reasoning behind the new format. They discussed formatting them to include the
52 school goals. They also discussed how some months certain sections would not be
53 included because they do not apply.

54 Ms. Foulks asked about seeing results for assessments other than the ones that are
55 normally presented to the board.

56 Mr. Warburton stated that once the NECAP results come in January, the administration
57 could present about results of other assessments also. The presentation will be scheduled
58 for February

59 **PUBLIC TIME**

Public Time

60 No public present.

Consent Agenda

61 **CONSENT AGENDA**

62 Ms. Head asked to pull the minutes from October 20, 2011.

63 **Ms. Head made a motion to accept the consent agenda containing the Treasurer's**
64 **Report and the corrected minutes from October 20, 2011. Ms. Foulks seconded the**
65 **motion.**

66 Ms. Head asked to make the following changes: line 75, 78, 85 no e on Aide; 262 school
67 sanctioned and school sponsored; let the parents and let the board know what the school's
68 liability is under both types of trips

69 Ms. Bennett asked to make the following changes: Add Ms. Shankel under administrative
70 attendance; Line 24 Ferry Beach; Line 186 Amy Birck; Line 165 Roof repair at Clark

71 **The vote was unanimous.**

72 **PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS**

73 FY13 Draft Budget

74 Powerpoint

75 Ms. Shankel discussed the process in writing the draft budget. She discussed the key
76 budget drivers including academic achievement, honoring contracts and agreements,
77 curriculum and technology initiatives, and to attract and retain excellent staff. She
78 discussed the FY12 budget which had a 2.54% increase. The FY13 Draft 1 does not
79 include the ASSA agreement and has a 2.2% increase totaling \$526,674. The main
80 reason for this increase is because of the increases in NH retirement for teachers, health
81 and dental insurance, and AEA, CBA new wages. The total of the major fluctuations is
82 \$900,575. It is hard to keep budgets flat when high percentage increases such as these are
83 given. She discussed the pay for staff and the Warrant articles including the operating
84 budget, the ASSA Agreement, and adding \$40,000 to the Expendable Trust, which has a
85 current balance of \$16,500.

86 Ms. Shankel discussed the Math Program Review and the need for resources,
87 manipulatives, technology, and adding a 0.5 FTE at Clark/ Wilkins and 0.5 FTE at AMS.
88 The needs for technology to have the integration for 21st century learning include
89 technology support for the math program, replacement of infrastructure and systems, and
90 begin implementation of slate computing. A new MS agreement (enterprise license) is
91 also being discussed.

92 Mr. St. Amand thanked the people who helped with the draft of the budget including Meg
93 Trainor, Janet Davis, Betty Shankel, SAU staff, teachers, and curriculum coordinators.
94 He discussed that the budget focuses on interventions, enrichment, instruction, materials,
95 technology, maintaining student teacher ratios, attending to SINI designation, and
96 providing professional development. He discussed little fluctuation in enrollment is
97 projected. He discussed the school commitment to literacy and math and using early
98 intervention. He also discussed using assessments, integrating technology, and
99 differentiated instruction.

100 Mr. St. Amand discussed staffing changes including reduce 0.5 FTE in Math intervention
101 which is an unfilled position, reduce 2 FTE classroom teachers and move 0.5 FTE speech
102 pathologist from regular education to special education. He gave staffing comparisons
103 from last year and the changes for FY13.

104 Ms. Shankel discussed the variances in the numbers because in FY12 they did not budget
105 for the preschool and used money from the out of district line.

106 St. Amand discussed that the support staff will be unchanged from FY12 to FY13.

107 Mr. Dodge thanked Pam Gross, Patty Wons, curriculum coordinators and teachers for
108 their help with the draft budget. He stated that the budget focuses on curriculum,

109 instruction, technology, professional development, RTI implementation, and a safe
110 educational environment. He stated that the enrollment is projected to be 748 students,
111 down from 762. He discussed programming including differentiated instruction, data
112 informed instruction, RTI implementation for all students, implementation of the Math
113 program (year 2), integration of technology, interscholastic athletics, intramurals, and co-
114 curricular programs.

115 Mr. Dodge discussed the staffing changes including adding 0.5 FTE for Math
116 intervention, reducing 2 FTE classroom teachers, adding 0.6 FTE reading teacher, adding
117 1 FTE special education, reducing 0.25 FTE occupational therapist and adding 1 FTE
118 para-educator. He discussed the FY12 and FY13 staffing comparisons including support
119 staff.

120 Ms. Shankel stated that the math intervention position was not funded and there was need
121 in special education.

122 Mr. Dodge summarized the staffing changes and the funding of RTI and early
123 intervention tools.

124 Ms. Shankel summarized the staffing changes for the entire district. She discussed the
125 next steps and the timeline for the budget.

126 Ms. Head asked to clarify how many math specialists and coaches and literacy specialists
127 and coaches are in all of the schools.

128 Mr. St. Amand stated that there is one 1.0 FTE Math coach. There is a 0.7 math specialist
129 who spends her time 0.2 at Clark Wilkins and 0.5 at AMS. This specialist does Math
130 intervention and support through Title One.

131 Ms. Heimarck clarified what Title One is and how students qualify to receive services.

132 Mr. St. Amand stated that there is also a 1.0 FTE para-educator who is devoted to math
133 intervention for IEP students and tier two not identified students.

134 Ms. Heimarck stated that the budget is asking for 0.5 FTE math interventionist because
135 the math coaches are not able to function in the full capacity as a coach. Currently
136 coaches are providing direct instruction and cannot support the teachers fully.

137 Mr. St. Amand reminded the board that the tier two intervention is not just about
138 remediation, but also about enrichment.

139 Mr. St. Amand stated that there are 2 FTE reading specialists, who provide direct services
140 and coordination of assessments specific to reading and provide direct assessments.
141 There are 2.0 FTE literacy teachers who work between Clark and Wilkins. They provide
142 only direct instruction. There is a 0.5 FTE literacy teacher at Wilkins and 1.0 FTE
143 literacy coach at Clark/Wilkins. He stated that the coaching positions do not work with
144 designated groups of students. They may model teaching strategies with classes, but they
145 do not work directly with students.

146 Mr. Dodge explained the math and literacy at AMS. In Math there is a 1.0 FTE math
147 coach, 0.7 FTE Title one support, which is the shared position with Clark and Wilkins.
148 He stated that AMS is asking for 0.5 in Math interventionist for direct intervention.

149 Mr. Dodge stated that for literacy there is a 1 FTE coach and 2 FTE reading teachers who
150 provide direct intervention. AMS is asking for 0.6 FTE para-education for a special
151 education reading teacher.

152 The board and administrators discussed the imbalance between math and literacy support.
153 Part of the imbalance can be separated because some of the support is for special
154 education and not regular education. The hope is, as RTI gets better less support will be
155 needed.

156 The board discussed the increases in cost and therefore the increase in the budget. They
157 discussed that the \$40,000 added to the expendable trust could be half from taxes and half
158 from the surplus.

159 Ms. Bennett stated that she is glad to hear that intervention includes enrichment. She
160 would like to see the DI newsletter.

161 The board and the administrators discussed the decreases in enrollment and how those
162 decreases are being seen in Mont Vernon also. The next three years look fairly consistent.
163 FY15 will be the lowest enrollment so far because of the low numbers in the current 2nd
164 grade classes.

165 Mark from the Ways and Means discussed the expendable trust warrant article money
166 coming from surplus. He discussed not adding the expendable trust to the bottom line of
167 budget and put in as much of the surplus, so voters will better support the warrant article
168 if this does not work and comes back next year.

169 The board liked this recommendation.

170 Warrant Articles

171 Ms. Shankel explained the warrant articles including the operating budget, ASSA
172 collective bargaining agreement, the special meeting if collective bargaining does not
173 pass, and adding money to expendable trust

174 The board agreed that the articles look fine.

175 School Building Goals

176 Ms. Bennett stated that she would like to do this in a workshop meeting because they
177 have building goals and the board needs to form goals.

178 **ACTION ITEMS**

Action Items

179 Sanction Italy trip

180 Ms. Shankel stated that she called LGC regarding insurance for trips. School sanctioned
181 and sponsored trips are covered and the liability is exactly the same for both types of
182 trips. The Italy trip will be covered. The lawyer suggested getting in writing from LGC
183 that both types of trips will be covered. Ms. Shankel stated that she did get in writing
184 from LGC that the trips are covered, but they do need a motion from board to sanction
185 the Italy trip and the coverage is 5 million dollars.

186 **Ms. Bennett made a motion that the Amherst School Board approves the**
187 **sanctioning of the trip to Italy based on the information from LGC. Mr. Manning**
188 **seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.**

189 Bond reissuance resolution

190 Ms. Shankel –stated that the board needs to adopt the bond reissuance resolution and then
191 the paper work needs the signatures of the board members.

192 **Ms. Foulks made a motion to adopt the bond reissuance resolution and authorize**
193 **the board to sign the reissuance document. Ms. Head seconded the motion and the**
194 **vote was unanimous.**

Discussion Items

195 **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

196 Policy IMGA – Animal Service – 1st Reading

197 Ms. Sparks stated that they did incorporate Mr. Manning’s suggestions.

198 Policy DIA – Fund Balances – 1st Reading

199 Policy JFAC – Admission and Enrollment Preschool-1st Reading

200 Ms. Head asked if the tuition agreements with other school districts are a board
201 decision.

202

203 Ms. Shankel stated that yes they would have to be signed by the board.

Non-Public Session

204

205 **Ms. Foulks made a motion to go into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A: 3 II.**
206 **(a) (c) at 7:28pm. Mr. Manning seconded the motion and the roll call was all**
207 **yes.**