

Amherst School Committee
October 15, 2013
Library, Amherst Regional High School

In Attendance:

Katherine Appy, Chair
Lawrence O'Brien
Rick Hood
Amilcar Shabazz

Maria Geryk, Superintendent
Rob Detweiler, Director of Finance and Operations
Mike Morris, Director of Assessment and Evaluation
Jim Reagan, Out-of-School Time Coordinator
Stacy Lacouver, Out-of-School Time LSSE Partner
Public and Press
Debbie Westmoreland, Recorder

ABSENT:

Kathleen Traphagen

1. Welcome **7:05 p.m.**

A. Call to Order—Ms. Appy called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and reviewed the agenda.

B. Approve Minutes—Mr. Hood made a motion to approve the minutes of August 27, 2013 as presented. Mr. O'Brien seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

2. Public Comments/Announcements **7:06 p.m.**

There were no public comments. Mr. Hood announced that ACTV has selected the recipient of this year's Jean Haggerty Award which recognizes excellence in community engagement and social change. The award honors Jean Haggerty, a longtime community advocate, and is awarded this year to the founders of *Student News*. Ms. Appy noted that there will be a Four Boards meeting this Thursday at 6:30 p.m. In addition, she reminded the School Committee of the upcoming Roger Wallace Excellence in Teaching Award fundraiser dinner at Amherst College.

3. Superintendent's Update **7:08 p.m.**

DOCUMENTS: Superintendent's Update to the Amherst School Committee dated October 15, 2013

Ms. Geryk reported on a number of recent and upcoming events including:

- Parents/guardians have been notified that implementation of the allergy-aware schools guidelines will be delayed until Monday, October 28;
- The Amherst Fire Department's annual pancake breakfast to benefit SAFE (Student Awareness of Fire Education) is scheduled for Sunday, October 20;
- The 19th annual AEF Trivia Bee is scheduled for Thursday, October 24;
- Latino Heritage Month will be celebrated on Thursday, October 24 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at Crocker Farm;
- The next Juntos We Play! sponsored by the ARPS Family Center will be held at Southpoint apartments on Saturday, October 26; and
- The ARPS Family Center has arranged for the Smiles Mobil Dental Program to visit all school to provide free dental services for students.

4. New and Continuing Business **7:16 p.m.**

A. & B. Before and After- School Program Update and Summer Program Update

DOCUMENTS: Out of School Time Program Initial Updates, October 15, 2013

Mr. Reagan, Out-of-School Time Coordinator, and Stacy LeCuivre, LSSE Out-of-School Time Partner, distributed and reviewed information regarding the Out-of-School Time programs. They begin by reporting on the Summer Achievement Academy and LSSE Summer Camps and then taking questions. Mr. Hood asked if they would like to see a higher rate of participation in the summer programs. Mr. Reagan said that we always want more students to participate in all of the programs. Mr. Shabazz asked what percentage of the participating students received fee subsidies. Mr. Reagan noted that it was close to 100% of the students (48 of 55 students). He and Ms. LeCuivre then reported on the new Before School Care Program and took questions. Mr. Shabazz asked if the current enrollments are sufficient to break even financially. Mr. Reagan noted that they are and that the program is currently running with a slight surplus. He and Ms. LeCuivre reported on the After School Program, noting that it is running much more smoothly in this second year of implementation. Ms. Appy thanked

Mr. Reagan and Ms. LeCuivre for the wonderful programs that have been put in place, noting that our students are very lucky to have access to them. Ms. LeCuivre noted that credit must be given to the three outstanding after-school program directors and expressed her appreciation for their outstanding work.

C. FY13 End-of-Year Budget Update

DOCUMENTS: Amherst Schools Operating Budget Fiscal Year 2013 End of Year Budget Report

Mr. Detweiler briefly reviewed the end-of-year FY13 Budget Report, noting that the year ended exactly where anticipated. There were no questions from the School Committee.

D. District Data Report Draft

DOCUMENTS: Five-Year Trend Data (Draft 10/11/13)

Ms. Geryk distributed and Mr. Morris briefly reviewed the type of data included in the Five-Year Trend Data draft. Ms. Geryk noted that any feedback or input should be provided by the end of October for presentation of the final report at the November meeting.

E. Approve Gifts

DOCUMENTS: Memo to the Amherst School Committee from Mary Wallace, District Treasurer, dated October 15, 2013

Mr. Hood moved to accept \$30 from Mary & Lawrence Huber and \$40 from Todd Sharek for the Laurie Rabut String Scholarship Fund; \$927.85 for Fort River and \$448.10 for Crocker Farm from the Target Take Charge of Education program. Mr. O'Brien seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

5. Policies

7:43 p.m.

DOCUMENT: Policy IIB: Instruction: Class Size

Mr. O'Brien moved to approve Policy IIB: Instruction—Class Size as presented. Mr. Hood seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

5. Subcommittee Reports

7:45 p.m.

A. RSDPB Update

Ms. Appy provided a brief report on the October 9, 2013 meeting of the RSDPB. She noted that there was a presentation on other districts' regionalization processes and discussion of three models for possible consideration by the RSDPB.

B. Budget Subcommittee

Mr. Hood reported that the next meetings of the Budget Subcommittee are October 29, with fee schedules on the agenda, and November 11, with capital budget process on the agenda. He noted that there was discussion at the last meeting of ways to improve the budget process and documents over last year.

6. School Committee Planning

7:53 p.m.

Calendar and Agenda Items---Ms. Geryk noted that there will be an enrollment update added to the calendar for the October 22nd meeting.

8. Adjournment

7:55 p.m.

Mr. O'Brien moved to adjourn at 7:55 p.m. Mr. Hood seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,
Debbie Westmoreland