

**Amherst-Pelham Regional School Committee Meeting
Tuesday, August 28, 2012
Library, Amherst Regional High School**

In Attendance:

Kip Fonsh, Chair	Maria Geryk, Superintendent
Rick Hood	Faye Brady, Director of Student Services
Lawrence O'Brien	Jerry Champagne, Information Systems Director
Katherine Appy	Mark Jackson, ARHS Principal
Trevor Baptiste	Debbie Westmoreland, Recorder
Annemarie Foley	Public
Almicar Shabazz	Press
Michael DeChiara	
Rob Spence	

Welcome **7:00 p.m.**

A. Welcome and Agenda Review—Mr. Fonsh called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He welcomed the members back after the summer break and reviewed the agenda, noting that Item 4A: FY12 Budget Update would be removed.

B. Minutes—Mr. Fonsh asked for approval of the minutes of June 7, June 12, June 13 and June 26, 2012 by unanimous consent. Mr. DeChiara noted two corrections on the minutes of June 12 and all four sets were approved.

Announcements and Public Comments **7:10 p.m.**

Ms. Geryk introduced Dr. Faye Brady, Director of Student Services, and the School Committee welcomed her to the district. Abby Jensen, Amherst resident and Pelham School Choice parent, expressed concern about Mr. Jackson's statement that there will be only one pathway in math for ARHS. She posed a series of questions she wants the School Committee to consider before such a change is implemented. Mr. Fonsh requested that she email her questions to the School Committee members and Superintendent Geryk.

Superintendent's Update **7:18 p.m.**

DOCUMENTS: Superintendent's Updates to the Regional School Committee dated August 28, 2012

Ms. Geryk provided brief updates including:

- Recognition of community businesses that provided an ice cream social for teachers at the end of the last school year;
- The successful new teacher training on August 27 for the 29 new faculty members in the districts;
- An invitation to the School Committee members to the all-staff convocation at 8:00 a.m. on August 29 and to the First Day Celebration on the Amherst Common at 5:30 p.m.;
- The success of Project Backpack, through which almost 400 donated backpacks filled with school supplies were distributed to students;
- The work of Central Office summer interns Harmonie Jean-Charland from UMass and Tian Buzbee from Amherst College;
- Publication of the 2012 ARHS Alumni Directory;
- The community outreach van purchased through a partnership between Family Outreach of Amherst, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hampshire County, the Town of Amherst and the Amherst Schools;
- The 2012 Latino Student Achievement Initiative; and
- Planned community conversations about race and ethnicity.

New and Continuing Business **7:26 p.m.**

A. Regionalization Update

Mr. DeChiara gave a brief update on the work of the Regional School District Planning Board (RSDPB) and the Board's three committees, which include Timeline and Communication, Finance, and Education. He explained that the RSDPB signed an MOU with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, noting that this is the first time in

50 years of periodic regionalization studies that the towns have reached the point of establishing a board and working with experts to gather data. Mr. DeChiara said the Board will only study regionalization models that include all four towns, including a PK-12 or a PK-6 region. He noted that the next Board meeting is scheduled for September 12 at Shutesbury Elementary School. Mr. Fonsh encouraged School Committee members to attend Board meetings whenever possible. Mr. Shabazz thanked Amherst Media for airing such informative videos about the Regionalization efforts, particularly the meeting with Steve Hemman from the Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools. Ms. Geryk recognized the RSDPB members for the substantial amount of work they have already put into this.

B. Accept Gifts

DOCUMENT: *Memo to the Regional School Committee from Mary Wallace, Treasurer, dated August 1, 2012*

Ms. Appy moved to accept \$500 from the Class of 2012 to the Class of 2013. Mr. Baptiste seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Subcommittee Updates

7:38 p.m.

A. Subcommittee Assignments

Mr. Fonsh explained that subcommittee assignments need to be made at tonight's meeting. Ms. Geryk reported that there will be contract negotiations beginning during the first few weeks of September for implementation of the new educator evaluation system, followed by negotiations for a successor contract. She noted that the negotiating team usually includes three School Committee members appointed by the Regional School Committee. Through discussion, the attached subcommittee assignments were made for the 2012-2013 school year.

Policies

7:52 p.m.

A. Policy for Emergency Basis Vote

DOCUMENTS: *Policy EBCA Support Services: Emergency Plans; Policy JLC Students: Student Health Services and Requirements; and Policy JJIF Students: Athletic Concussion Policy*

Mr. Fonsh explained that the School Committee is being asked to vote on three policies—EBCA Support Services: Emergency Plans; JLC Students: Student Health Services and Requirements; and JJIF Students: Athletic Concussion Policy—on the same night as the first reading because state legislation requires that they be submitted by September 1st. He noted that each policy is based on MASC wording and briefly reviewed them. Discussion followed regarding whether to change the word “relations” to “health” in the phrase “in all cases of injury or illness involving possible legal or public relations implications” in policy JLC. Mr. Spence moved to approve Policy JLC as written. Ms. Appy seconded and the motion was approved with Mr. Shabazz opposed. Mr. Spence then moved to approve policies EBCA and JJIF as written. Mr. DeChiara seconded and the motion was approved with Mr. Shabazz abstaining.

B. Policy for First Reading

DOCUMENTS: *Policy IIB Instruction—Class Size*

Mr. DeChiara questioned whether the portion of Policy IIB that deals with class size in the Regional schools should be broken out into a separate policy since the Regional School Committee cannot vote on matters related only to the Amherst Public School District. After discussion, Mr. Spence made a motion that Policy IIB be brought back to the Regional School Committee for a vote as it is currently written. Mr. O'Brien seconded and discussion followed. Mr. Baptiste then moved to amend Mr. Spence's motion to bring the policy back with additional language that says “where applicable to the Middle School and High School” and with class size ranges added. Mr. Shabazz seconded and the amendment failed with five in favor and four opposed. The original motion made by Mr. Spence then failed with three in favor and six opposed. It was agreed that the policy will be sent back to the Policy Subcommittee for further revision.

C. Policy for Continued Discussion

DOCUMENTS: *Policy KHB Advertising and Signage in Schools and on School Property and Athletic Sponsorship Program District Guidelines*

In the interest of following the established times on the agenda, Mr. Fonsh suggested tabling this policy since it is already later than the listed adjournment time, and this policy is likely to require lengthy discussion. Mr. O'Brien

asked if deferring discussion will impede the Athletic Director's ability to move forward with advertising. Mr. Jackson said it is not a problem to wait and suggested moving the agenda item to October, at which time he and the Athletic Director will be able to provide an update to inform the School Committee's discussion.

7. School Committee Planning

8:34 p.m.

A. Calendar Review

DOCUMENT: 2012-2013 School Committee Meetings: Dates and Topics

Ms. Geryk distributed and reviewed an updated reports calendar, noting that the adjustments were made in consultation with the School Committee Chairs and the District Directors are currently reviewing the proposed changes. Mr. DeChiara suggested formally inviting the Leverett and Shutesbury School Committees to the meeting at which the later start time proposal will be discussed. Ms. Geryk noted that the date of the September 25th joint meeting must be changed since that is the date of Yom Kippur.

B. Items for Future Agendas

After-school program update; High School Math Update; Science Evaluation Update; Spending on Legal Representation (requested by Mr. Shabazz as follow-up to change in Special Education representation)

8. Adjournment

8:47 p.m.

Mr. DeChiara moved to adjourn at 8:47 p.m. Mr. Spence seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,
Debbie Westmoreland

Approved November 13, 2012

**Subcommittee Assignments
2012-2013**

Regional School Committee Assignments

Amherst Education Foundation (AEF): Rick Hood

Audit Subcommittee (OPEN MEETING LAW): Rick Hood, Debbie Gould, Kip Fonsh

Budget Subcommittee (OPEN MEETING LAW): Amilcar Shabazz, Rick Hood, Kip Fonsh, Debbie Gould

Clerical Merit Award Committee (Spring—one meeting only): Annie Foley

Contract Negotiating Team for Four Units: Kip Fonsh, Katherine Appy

Contract Negotiating Team for APAA (assistant principals): Kip Fonsh, Katherine Appy

Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) Delegate: Kip Fonsh

Policy Subcommittee (OPEN MEETING LAW): Kip Fonsh, Lawrence O'Brien, Michael DeChiara

Professional Leave Request Subcommittee (OPEN MEETING LAW): Trevor Baptiste, School Committee Chairs (based on which District receives requests)

The Collaborative representative: Trevor Baptiste (Pelham), Amilcar Shabazz (Amherst), Kip Fonsh (Region)