

**Joint Amherst, Union 26 and Amherst-Pelham Regional School Committee Meeting
Tuesday, October 24, 2017
Library, Amherst Regional High School
21 Mattoon Street
Amherst, MA 01002**

IN ATTENDANCE

Eric Nakajima, Amherst/Regional Chair
Ron Mannino, Region/Union 26
Phoebe Hazzard, Amherst/Regional/Union 26
Stephen Sullivan, Region
Vira Douangmany Cage, Amherst/Region
Emily Marriott, Region/Union 26
Anastasia Ordonez, Amherst/Region/Union 26 Chair
Audra Goscenski, Region
Cara Castenson, Union 26
Peter Demling, Amherst/Region/Union 26

Michael Morris, Superintendent
Doreen Cunningham, Assistant Superintendent
Sean Mangano, Finance Director
Public and Press
Debbie Westmoreland, Recorder

NOTE: Ms. Hazzard and Mr. Demling left at 8:00 and returned at 8:53

1. Call to Order and Approve Minutes

6.34 p.m.

Mr. Nakajima called the Regional School Committee meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. and Ms. Ordonez called the Union 26 School Committee to order at that time. On behalf of the Regional School Committee, Ms. Goscenski moved to approve the minutes of October 10, 2017. Ms. Hazzard seconded and the motion was unanimously approved. On behalf of the Union 26 School Committee, Ms. Castenson moved to approve the minutes of October 10, 2017. Ms. Marriott seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Nakajima stated that the Regional committee will enter Executive Session in accordance with Open Meeting Law, MGL c. 30A, Section 21(a) pursuant to Purpose 2 to conduct strategy session in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel, Michael Morris AND Purpose 3 to discuss strategy with respect to litigation, lead water suit, because the Chair finds that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigation position of the Committee. Mr. Nakajima moved to enter Executive Session, Ms. Marriott seconded and, by roll call vote, the committee entered Executive Session at 6:37 p.m.

Mannino: Aye
Hazzard: Aye
Marriott: Aye
Ordonez: Aye
Demling: Aye
Nakajima: Aye
Sullivan: Aye
Douangmany Cage: Aye
Goscenski: Aye

On behalf of the Union 26 committee, Ms. Ordonez stated that the Union 26 committee will enter Executive Session in accordance with Open Meeting Law, MGL c. 30A, Section 21(a) pursuant to Purpose 2 to conduct strategy session in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel, Michael Morris (not to return to open session). Ms. Ordonez moved to enter Executive Session at 6:37 p.m., Ms. Castenson seconded, and by roll call vote as follows, the Union 26 School Committee entered Executive Session at 6:37 p.m.

Mannino: Aye
Hazzard: Aye
Marriott: Aye
Ordonez: Aye
Demling: Aye
Castenson: Aye

The Regional School Committee returned to open session at 7:40 p.m. Ms. Hazzard called the Amherst School Committee to order at 7:40 p.m.

2. Joint Committee Item: Master Architect Agreement FR Roof, WW Boiler & ARMS Roof

Mr. Mangano distributed and reviewed information about the request for proposals that was issued for an architect to oversee three major capital projects that need to be done over the next three years. The projects include the Wildwood boiler, the Fort River roof and the ARMS roof. He explained that the firm Gale Associates, Inc. was the highest ranked and had very strong references; therefore, the recommendation is to award the contract to them. Mr. Mangano answered clarifying questions, including a review of the payout terms of the contract. On behalf of the Regional School Committee, Ms. Goscenski moved to award the designer contract for RFQ-R-18-01 to Gale Associates, Inc. Ms. Hazzard seconded and the motion was unanimously approved. On behalf of the Amherst School Committee, Mr. Nakajima moved to award the designer contract for RFQ-R-18-01 to Gale Associates, Inc. Mr. Demling seconded and, after brief clarifying questions, the motion was unanimously approved. Mr. Demling moved to adjourn the Amherst School Committee at 7:50 p.m. Mr. Nakajima seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

2. Announcements and Public Comment

7:50 p.m.

There were no public comments. Ms. Douangmany Cage noted that the Amherst Media Jean Haggerty Award will be given to the Amherst Rotary Club tomorrow night.

3. Subcommittee Updates

7:53 p.m.

- **Contract Negotiating Team:** Ms. Douangmany Cage reported that the team met yesterday and is scheduled to meet again next week. Negotiations are moving along well.
- **Superintendent Evaluation Subcommittee:** Ms. Goscenski reported on the work of the subcommittee at their meeting last night. She distributed and reviewed the policy and timeline developed by the subcommittee, noting that goals will be coming from Dr. Morris this year since we are currently working on the strategic plan. Ms. Hazzard noted that the subcommittee wanted to share this information with the committee tonight so it can be put on the next agenda for discussion.
- **Policy Subcommittee:** Ms. Marriott reported that the Policy subcommittee is continuing the process of reviewing policies that have not been reviewed in many years. In addition, when consultant Juna Pierre worked with the district leaders, she identified several policies that need to be updated. Ms. Cunningham will attend the Policy Subcommittee meeting on December 18 to review those policies with the subcommittee.
- **School Equity Task Force:** Ms. Douangmany Cage reported that SETF is scheduled to meet on November 1 at 6:30, and they are looking forward to having a joint meeting with the Regional School Committee at 5:45 on November 14.
- **Recreation Working Group:** Mr. Sullivan reported that the group met last week and reviewed a usage chart for all of the high school, middle school and community fields. In addition, they have hired a consultant to look at the fields to develop three options (a gold, silver and bronze) for renovations to the fields, including turning the track due to issues with sun glare.
- **SEPAC:** Dr. Morris reported that SEPAC is sponsoring signs at the schools to promote Disability Awareness Month and that Nancy Stewart, SEPAC President, filmed an episode of *A Window into ARPS* with he and Dr. Faye Brady, Student Services Director. He also noted that they are sponsoring a number of parent events, including a series of workshops regarding autism.
- **Amherst Media Liaison:** Ms. Douangmany Cage noted that the Roger L. Wallace Excellence in Teaching Award dinner to honor recipient Stephen Lott will be this Sunday at 5:00 p.m. She has tickets available at \$25 each.

5. Superintendent's Update

8:20 p.m.

Dr. Morris reported on, and answered clarifying questions about, several events and topics including:

- He attended a conference entitled *Responding to and Preventing Incidents of Hate in K-12 Schools* with Patty Bode and David Slovin.
- UMass and the Town of Amherst have entered a four-year strategic partnership that will include an evaluation of the cost of students who live in tax-exempt housing.
- A community event is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on November 2 in the ARMS library to plan for ways to support families from Puerto Rico who relocate here after Hurricane Maria.
- The AEF Trivia Bee is on October 26.
- PGO representatives will be the next guests on *A Window into ARPS*.

- The Summit Academy boiler is in need of repair, which requires a replacement part. Work will begin Thursday and will hopefully be completed this week.

6. Chair's Report

8:35 p.m.

There was no report.

7. New and Continuing Business

8:35 p.m.

A. Food Service Update

Dr. Morris introduced Ryan Harb, Food Services Director, noting that anecdotal feedback about the new food services program has been incredibly positive. Mr. Harb utilized a Powerpoint presentation to provide an update on the new in-house food services program. Topics covered included:

- The 2017 summer food service program;
- Participation in the First Day Celebration;
- An introduction to new kitchen staff;
- Information about Chef Sam and the Chefs in Schools program;
- New recipes and menus;
- The new website;
- Development of a nutritional database;
- Participation data;
- An update on the meal collection policy;
- Opportunities, challenges of the program and next steps; and
- The upcoming Soup Day that will feature soup made from vegetables grown in the elementary school gardens.

Mr. Harb answered clarifying questions from the committee both during and after the presentation. Mr. Nakajima thanked Mr. Harb for the update, noting that the School Committee will want to have him back again.

B. Regional Assessment Working Group Update

Dr. Morris noted that the goal of tonight's presentation is just to orient the School Committee on the work of the Regional Assessment Working Group to date. The recommendation of the group, which is working with the consultant Mark Abramson, will be presented at a future meeting. Mr. Mangano utilized a Powerpoint presentation to give an overview of the five potential assessment method options being considered by the Regional Assessment Working Group, the data sources and assumptions for each model, financial models and sensitivity testing for each, and next steps. Mr. Mangano answered clarifying questions from committee members throughout the presentation.

C. Budget Guidance Goals Review

Mr. Mangano noted that this goal review is the first of three parts of the budget guidance process. He utilized a Powerpoint presentation to provide details about three of the district's goals with budgetary impacts, which include strengthening instruction, strengthening enrichment and wrap-around services and family engagement, and increase percentages of educators of color. Mr. Mangano noted that the next meeting will include a discussion of key budgetary indicators and the following meeting will feature strategic program reviews. He asked for feedback regarding which program areas should be presented. Ms. Ordonez noted that the IS bandwidth and wireless upgrade, OPEB contribution and athletics would be areas that would be helpful to hear more about. Mr. Nakajima suggested pairing the IS bandwidth and wireless upgrade with the one-to-one technology program. Ms. Marriott noted that it would be beneficial to hear about both athletics and clubs, including enrollment numbers in each. Ms. Goscenski noted that she would like to see a course listing to get a better idea of what we are offering students. Dr. Morris said we will email the School Committee members the links to the Middle and High School course listings, both of which are on the website.

At 10:11 p.m., Mr. Demling expressed concern about proceeding with the next two agenda items unless there are deadlines that must be met. Ms. Marriott asked to speak briefly about School Committee protocols.

D. School Committees Protocols

Ms. Marriott noted that she only heard from three members of the committee with suggestions for updates to the original protocols draft. She has provided the committee with the updated draft and asked that other members send her any additional changes or suggestions.

E. Strategic Planning Process

Dr. Morris noted that Dr. Mussad, who is working with the district on the Strategic Planning process, has requested feedback on the revised timeline so work can begin. He will send the document to the School Committee again and asked for their feedback ASAP.

F. Accept Gifts

There were no gifts.

8. School Committee Planning

10:17 p.m.

Responding to and preventing incidents of hate in K-12 schools; Communication strategy; Mr. Nakajima noted that draft agendas for future meetings will be sent to the committee tomorrow

9. Adjourn

10:18 p.m.

Ms. Goscenski moved to adjourn at 10:18 p.m. Ms. Hazzard seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,
Debbie Westmoreland

MEETING DOCUMENTS

1. *Amherst-Pelham Regional School Committee Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, October 10, 2017*
2. *Update from the Interim Superintendent to the Regional School Committee dated October 24, 2017*
3. *Memo to the Amherst and Amherst-Pelham Regional School Committees and Dr. Morris from Sean Mangano, Director of Finance, regarding Master Architect Agreement: Fort River Roof, Wildwood Boiler and Middle School Roof*
4. *ARPS Food Service Updates dated October 24, 2017*
5. *Assessment Method Working Group dated October 11, 2017*
6. *Amherst-Pelham Regional School Committee Protocols Draft*
7. *Superintendent Evaluation Process and Timeline 2017-2018*
8. *Proposed Timeline: Side-by-Side View (revised) for Facilitation of Initial Strategic Planning Processes in the Amherst Regional Public Schools (Gr. 7-12 District)*
9. *ARPS SEPAC Brochure*

Approved 11/14/17