

Amherst-Pelham Regional School Committee Meeting
Tuesday, December 11, 2012
Library, Amherst Regional High School

In Attendance:

Kip Fonsh, Chair	Maria Geryk, Superintendent
Rick Hood	Kathy Mazur, Human Resources Director
Lawrence O'Brien	Jerry Champagne, Information Systems Director
Katherine Appy	Rob Detweiler, Director of Finance & Operations
Trevor Baptiste	Miki Lee Gromacki, ARHS Assistant Principal
Annemarie Foley	Mark Jackson, ARHS Principal
Michael DeChiara	Rich Ferro, Athletic Director
Amilcar Shabazz (arrived @ 7:56)	Faye Brady, Director of Student Services
Zoe Langsdale, Student Rep	Mike Morris, Director of Evaluation & Assessment
	Diane Chamberlain, ARHS Assistant Principal
Absent:	Hannah Hopkins, ARHS Art Teacher
Rob Spence	Jeff Stoddard, ARHS Art Teacher
	Debbie Westmoreland, Recorder
	Public and Press

Welcome and Agenda Review **7:02 PM**

Mr. Fonsh called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and welcomed the audience.

Minutes—Mr. Fonsh asked if there are any requests for changes to the minutes of November 13, 2012. None were suggested so the minutes were approved as presented by unanimous consent.

Announcements and Public Comments **None**

Superintendent's Update **7:05 p.m.**

DOCUMENTS: *Superintendent's Updates to the Regional School Committee dated 12/11/12*

Ms. Geryk gave brief updates on several topics including:

- Valley Gives Day is scheduled for tomorrow, December 12, and the Amherst Education Foundation is one of the participating non-profits.
- UMass students in the UCAN volunteer program donated school supplies for district students in need through the very successful Give Thanks, Give Back campaign.
- Calvin Terrell has agreed to visit the district in May to work with school administrators and community members in planning the MSAN student conference that will be hosted by Amherst in September 2013. He has also agreed to speak at the conference.
- Tosh Foerster, ARHS ninth grader, has been selected to serve a two-year term on Governor Deval Patrick's Statewide Youth Council, which allows Tosh to represent our local community on initiatives involving teen leadership and empowerment at twice-monthly meetings at the Statehouse in Boston.

New and Continuing Business **7:08 p.m.**

B. FY14 Preliminary Financial Projections

DOCUMENTS: *Amherst-Pelham Regional School District FY14 Level Services Budget Summary*

Ms. Geryk gave a brief introduction regarding the preliminary financial projections that Mr. Detweiler is presenting for the FY14 budget. She noted that the figures are very rough and simply provide a starting point for the administration to begin planning. Additional information, including choice and charter figures, will be coming from the state over the next couple of weeks. Ms. Geryk reminded the Committee that they will receive the detailed budget information at the Regional School Committee meeting on January 8, 2013, and there will be a Four Towns meeting to discuss the budget and each town's assessment on January 12th. Mr. Detweiler then distributed and reviewed the highlights of the FY14 level services budget. He also outlined the impact a 1.5%, a 2.5% and a 3.5% increase would have on the town assessments and the resulting budget gap of each. Mr. Detweiler answered clarifying questions from the committee, noting that these figures are a work in progress.

B. ARHS Course Proposals

DOCUMENTS: *Memo to the Amherst-Pelham Regional School Committee from Debbie Westmoreland, Assistant to the Superintendent, regarding ARHS Course Proposals and back up material for Art History, Advanced Printmaking, and Realignment of the Sequence for 9th Grade PE and 10th Grade Health*

Mr. Jackson introduced Hannah Hopkins, Art Department Chair, and Jeff Stoddard, Art Teacher, who presented information about two new art courses: 1) Art History and 2) Advanced Printmaking. He noted that the current proposal is to get the School Committee's approval for the Art History course so it can be included in the Program of Studies, but it may not be offered next year. Mr. Stoddard reviewed the proposal for Art History, noting that it would be a 12 week survey course of art from the Stone Age to contemporary art. Ms. Foley asked what the costs would be for the Art History course. Ms. Hopkins explained that there would not be an additional staffing cost because Mr. Stoddard would teach one less Foundations of Art course in order to teach Art History. The only cost would be for the textbook. Ms. Hopkins reported on the Advanced Printmaking proposal, explaining that it will be taught simultaneously with the current Printmaking course so there would not be any additional cost. Rich Ferro, Athletic Director, then reviewed the proposal to shift the current alignment of the 9th grade Physical Education course (Adventure Challenge) and the 10th grade Health course. Mr. DeChiara moved to authorize the Art History and Advanced Printmaking courses and the resequencing of 9th grade PE and 10th grade Health. Mr. O'Brien seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

C. School Choice Discussion

DOCUMENT: *Memo to the Regional School Committee from Kathryn Mazur, Director of Human Resources, regarding School Choice*

Ms. Mazur reviewed the memo regarding the current enrollment of School Choice students and the history of School Choice since the district first began participating in 1999. (Mr. Shabazz arrived at 7:56 p.m. during this presentation.) Due to the uncertainty of the budget projections, Ms. Mazur recommended that the School Committee wait until their February meeting to vote on whether to open additional seats at the Regional level for 2013-2014. Discussion followed regarding the benefit of School Choice versus the potential for districts to become dependent on choice funds in order to remain solvent.

D. Athletic Sponsorships

DOCUMENT: *Athletic Sponsorship Powerpoint Slides*

Mr. Ferro gave a Powerpoint presentation outlining the work and recommendations of the Athletic Sponsorship Committee that has been working on the issue of sponsorships for about one year. He included a review of the decline in appropriations for athletics from 2007 through 2012, the FY13 response to the funding decline, the Booster contributions to the athletic budget, and the plan of action for a sponsorship program that is being recommended by the Sponsorship Committee. Ms. Appy asked about the potential for graffiti on banners displayed outdoors. Mr. Ferro noted that the committee discussed this issue, and they are looking at several ways to address that concern, ranging from the height at which banners will be displayed to the type of fasteners used. Mr. Ferro answered clarifying questions about the athletic budget appropriations, the type of advertising that will be sought, and the research and action plan going forward. Mr. Jackson suggested that the School Committee allow Mr. Ferro and the Sponsorship Committee to move forward with their research and come back before them to share the information they gather from local business owners. That information can then inform the School Committee's decision about whether further policy work is needed around this issue. Ms. Geryk and Mr. Fonsh thanked Mr. Ferro, Mr. Johnson, and other members of the Boosters for the efforts and due diligence they have put into this work.

Subcommittee Updates

8:31 p.m.

A. RSDPB Update

Ms. Geryk reported that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education contacted the District today to say they have strong interest in supporting the RSDPB's grant proposal. They requested that the district resubmit a budget for a reduced amount of \$60,000 instead of the \$90,000 originally requested. Ms. Geryk and her staff will work on a revised budget for submission on Thursday. Mr. DeChiara then reported briefly on the work of the RSDPB and the Board's working committees. The full Board will meet tomorrow night at 6:00 p.m. in the Professional Development Center at Amherst Regional Middle School. In addition, the Education and Finance

consultants will report their findings at a public forum on Saturday, February 2nd tentatively scheduled for 1:00 p.m. in the Middle School auditorium.

7. School Committee Planning

8:34 p.m.

A. Calendar—Policy Subcommittee meeting Monday, December 17 at 5:00 p.m.; Executive Session for Joint School Committee at 6:00 p.m. on December 18

8. Adjournment

8:38 p.m.

Mr. Shabazz moved to adjourn at 8:38 p.m. Mr. O'Brien seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,
Debbie Westmoreland

Approved January 8, 2013