

**Regular Meeting of the Amherst School Committee**  
**April 28, 2015**  
**6:00 p.m.**  
**Library, Amherst Regional High School**

**In Attendance:**

Katherine Appy, Chair  
Rick Hood, Vice-Chair  
Phoebe Hazzard  
Kathleen Traphagen  
Vira Douangmany Cage (arrived @ 6:13)

Maria Geryk, Superintendent  
Mike Morris, Assistant Superintendent  
Sean Mangano, Finance Director  
Debbie Westmoreland, Recorder  
Public and Press

**1. Welcome **6:04 PM****

**A. Call to Order, Reorganization and Agenda Review**

Ms. Geryk called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. and requested nominations for Chair. Mr. Hood nominated Katherine Appy. There were no other nominations, and Ms. Appy was approved unanimously. Ms. Appy called for nominations for Vice-Chair and then nominated Rick Hood. There were no other nominations, and Mr. Hood was unanimously approved. Ms. Appy nominated Phoebe Hazzard as Secretary, and her nomination was unanimously approved. After review of the agenda, it was agreed that there will be no subcommittee updates tonight.

**B. Approve Minutes**

Ms. Traphagen moved to approve the minutes of March 17, 2015 with corrections. The motion was approved with Ms. Appy abstaining.

**2. Public Comments **6:09 PM****

There were no public comments.

**3. New and Continuing Business **6:09 PM****

**A. FY15 Third Quarter Budget Update**

***DOCUMENTS: Amherst Public Schools FY2015 Third Quarter Budget Report***

Mr. Mangano distributed and reviewed the highlights of the FY15 Third Quarter Budget Report, including answering clarifying questions for the new members. He concluded that the budget is projected to finish under budget with three months remaining in the fiscal year. Ms. Douangmany Cage arrived at 6:13 p.m., at which time Ms. Appy officially welcomed her and Ms. Hazzard to the School Committee and thanked them for their service to the schools and students.

**B. MSBA Update**

***DOCUMENTS: Master Wildwood Project Schedule; Wildwood School Building Project Timeline***

Mr. Morris distributed and reviewed the Wildwood project schedule, highlighting the steps that have been completed to date. He reported that the MSBA has officially approved Joslin, Lesser and Associates as OPM for the project. Mr. Morris noted that members of the Wildwood School Building Committee are visiting the School Councils at each school to get feedback on communication options as the project moves forward. Since some of the potential options under consideration would impact all three of the Amherst schools, each school will have a parent and staff representative on the School Building Committee. The parent and teacher representatives from Crocker Farm have been identified and have agreed to be on the committee. Mr. Morris expects that the Fort River representatives will be finalized soon. He reported that an information

session for potential designers was held at Wildwood today, which included a tour by Facilities Director Ron Bohonowicz. For selecting the designer, Mr. Bohonowicz, Mr. Morris and Ms. Appy are the local members of the Designer Selection Panel along with 15 MSBA members. Mr. Morris briefly reviewed the process that will be followed once the designer is identified. He then answered clarifying questions from the School Committee regarding the entire process and the School Committee's role as the process moves forward. He noted that the final approval is based on a Town Meeting vote. Mr. Hood thanked Mr. Morris for the update, noting that he feels the School Committee is being kept well-informed. Ms. Douangmany Cage asked where the funding is coming from for the feasibility project and the Town's portion of the full project if it is approved. Mr. Mangano said that Sandy Pooler, Amherst Finance Director, is the best qualified to speak to this question. Mr. Morris noted that funds for the feasibility study came from funding that had been approved for a Wildwood boiler. These funds were reallocated to the feasibility study.

### **C. Field Trips**

#### ***DOCUMENT: Amherst Elementary Field Trips Spreadsheet***

Mr. Morris noted that information about the Amherst elementary field trips was distributed to the School Committee as requested at the March meeting. The topic will be added to the May agenda for a more in-depth discussion.

### **4. School Committee Calendar**

**6:41 PM**

Ms. Geryk reviewed the May calendar, noting that topics include MSBA update, Field Trip Discussion, Arts Integration Update, Equity Work at the Elementary Level, and Clerical-Media Awards.

### **5. Adjournment**

**6:42 PM**

Ms. Traphagen moved to adjourn at 6:42 p.m. Mr. Hood seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Debbie Westmoreland