

**Amherst-Pelham Regional and Union 26 School Committee Meeting
Tuesday, February 8, 2017
Library, Amherst Regional High School**

IN ATTENDANCE

Eric Nakajima, Region
Emily Marriott, Region (arrived at 6:17 p.m.)
Anastasia Ordonez, Region & Union 26
Trevor Baptiste, Region & Union 26
Vira Douangmany-Cage, Region
Cara Castenson, Union 26
Audra Goscenski, Region
Phoebe Hazzard, Region & Union 26
Ron Mannino, Union 26
Stephen Sullivan, Region (arrived at 6:17 p.m.)

Mike Morris, Interim Superintendent
Sean Mangano, Finance Director
Faye Brady, Student Services Director
Kathryn Mazur, HR Director
Mark Jackson, ARHS Principal
David Slovin, SEC Principal
Public and Press
Debbie Westmoreland, Recorder

ABSENT

Katherine Appy, Region & Union 26

1. Call to Order and Approve Minutes

6:05 p.m.

Mr. Nakajima called the Regional School Committee to order and Ms. Ordonez called the Union 26 School Committee to order at 6:05 p.m. Ms. Douangmany Cage moved to approve the minutes of January 10, 2017 with one correction. Mr. Baptiste seconded and the motion was unanimously approved. Ms. Castenson moved to approve the minutes on behalf of the Union 26 School Committee. Mr. Mannino seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

2. South East Campus Student Presentation

6:10 p.m.

Dr. Morris introduced David Slovin, Principal of South East Campus School and explained that he met with Mr. Slovin and the SEC Student Council a few weeks ago to discuss issues of interest to the student body. With the School Committee Chair's permission, SEC students were invited to attend to share their thoughts with the School Committee. Mr. Slovin then provided background about SEC as a therapeutic day school and introduced the Student Council Co-Chairs, Zach and Jonah, who shared their experiences there. Both talked about the ways in which the school has benefitted them and helped them succeed in high school and answered questions for the School Committee members. The student presentation was not recorded by Amherst Media in accordance with the students' preference.

3. Announcements and Public Comment

6:35 p.m.

Mary Lou Conca, Shutesbury resident and Wellness Committee member, spoke about the importance of clean, organic food for children's academic achievement. She distributed an article to the School Committee and requested that it be included in the meeting minutes. Cindy Schuler, school bus driver, spoke regarding a personal situation of her granddaughter in the schools in which she stated that her granddaughter's rights have been taken away. Peter Demling, Amherst parent, noted that it is important to note on the website if school committee meetings change by a day. He also noted that there has been concern that the percent of parent representation on the Search Committee may not be large enough. He stated that it would be effective to leverage the current engagement on the school building issue to bring parents to the search committee. Jennifer Page, Crocker Farm parent, pointed out that there is overlap between the election and the timeline for the Superintendent search. She encouraged that the School Committee members appointed to the search committee not include those whose seats may change. Jeff Jones, Union representative of the food services workers, noted that preliminary conversations have indicated that the food service workers of the district will continue to have a productive working relationship with the district if it moves to an in-house operation. He encouraged the district to maintain that relationship. Rick Hood, Amherst resident, encouraged the committee

to give serious consideration to the SETF budget proposal and to redoing the climate survey that was done in 2014.

4. Interim Superintendent's Update

6:48 p.m.

DOCUMENT: *Interim Superintendent's Update to the Amherst-Pelham Regional School Committee dated February 8, 2017*

In the interest of time, Dr. Morris distributed the written update and reported on just one topic. He reported that he, Principal Mark Jackson, and Chair Nakajima have met with Jonathan Edwards, Director of Strategic Partnerships of TechFoundry in Springfield. TechFoundry is a work force development organization for students interested in pursuing careers in tech fields. The goal is to explore a dual enrollment model for ARHS students.

4. New and Continuing Business

6:53 p.m.

A. Superintendent Search Process

DOCUMENT: *Amherst Survey Results; Amherst Additional Comments; Amherst Draft Flyer; Amherst-Pelham Regional Schools Seeks a Superintendent Who...; Amherst-Pelham Regional Schools Thirty-Three Characteristics Report Explanation dated February 9, 2017*

Ms. Mazur noted that the School Committee members have received the results of the community survey from Ray and Associates, noting that more than 400 people participated. Discussion turned to the Screening Committee, and Ms. Mazur encouraged the School Committee to add a community member to the screening committee. With regard to having a student representative on the committee, she explained that Mr. Jackson does not believe it is feasible due to the required time commitment. Ms. Mazur noted that students will have opportunities to meet with the Superintendent candidates during the interview process and to provide their feedback. At Chair Nakajima's request, Ms. Mazur reviewed the makeup of the screening committee and what participants availability will need to be over two weeks in March. Mr. Nakajima noted that there will be five community members--many of them parents, three school committee members, two building principals, an employee from the Family Center and two employees from the APEA unit will be included on the screening committee. Ms. Mazur noted that the community member will be chosen at a meeting of the school committee by random drawing from those who express interest in serving. Discussion followed regarding the makeup of the committee and the ways in which representatives will be selected. Ms. Mazur reviewed the process that will be followed beginning with Ray and Associates' review of all applications through the screening committee interviews and choice of two to four finalists for the School Committee to interview in public session. Mr. Baptiste expressed his concern that the current makeup of the committee could mean that there is no representation from Pelham. After discussion, it was suggested that there be three APEA members with the requirement that one be from Pelham Elementary. Ms. Goscenski suggested requesting that the APEA choose one representative from Amherst, one from Pelham and one from the Region. Ms. Hazzard then moved to change the makeup of the screening committee to include three representatives from the APEA with guidance from the School Committee to include one from Amherst, one from Pelham and one from Region and to add one community member to be selected by lottery. Ms. Goscenski seconded and the motion was unanimously approved for the Region. Mr. Mannino made the same motion on behalf of Union 26. Ms. Hazzard seconded and the motion was unanimously approved. Mr. Nakajima encouraged members of the public to share any ideas or suggestions they may have throughout the search process. Ms. Mazur reviewed the contents of the packet the members received from Ray and Associates. She asked committee members to provide her with any edits to the proposed flyer by noon tomorrow so they can be forwarded to Ray and Associates. Mr. Baptiste moved to adjourn the Union 26 School Committee at 7:50 p.m. Ms. Castenson seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Nakajima noted that he has received a request to consider moving the start time of the Regional School Committee meetings to 6:30 p.m. instead of 6:00 p.m. There was unanimous agreement on the part of the committee to make that change.

B. Food Services Vote

DOCUMENT: Draft Process Calendar; Financial Analysis 2013-2016

Mr. Mangano noted that Whitsons has run the summer food service program over the past two summers. He explained that if the committee votes to move to an in-house program, we may need to hire an outside company to run the summer program just for this year since Whitsons will not provide it and the new Food Services Director will just be starting on July 1. Dr. Morris assured the committee that there will be food for the children in the summer program. Ms. Goscenski moved to establish an in-house food service program beginning with the FY2018 school year. Ms. Ordonez seconded and discussion followed with Mr. Mangano answering clarifying questions for the committee. Ms. Goscenski noted that the committee has heard a lot of feedback from the community that the in-house food service program is important and also that the SETF social justice proposal is important. She asked if both are possible in the upcoming budget. Dr. Morris noted that he feels confident that we can make strong headway in restorative practices and student leadership while also making this in-house food services decision. Mr. Mangano briefly reviewed the process that would be followed in establishing the in-house program, beginning with hiring the new Food Services Director. Mr. Sullivan asked what will happen to the current food service staff if we move in-house. Mr. Mangano explained that employees will have to be brought back in-district, noting that we may have to renegotiate a new union contract going forward. After further discussion, the motion was unanimously approved. Mr. Nakajima thanked Mr. Mangano and the Food Services Visioning Committee for their work on this issue.

C. FY18 Budget Presentation

DOCUMENT: FY2018 Amherst-Pelham Regional Schools Budget Binder; Amherst Pelham Regional School District FY18 Budget Proposal Powerpoint dated February 8, 2017

Dr. Morris noted that tonight Mr. Mangano is presenting an overview of the proposed budget and the budget hearing will be held at the February 28 meeting. Dr. Mangano then utilized a Powerpoint presentation to review highlights of the proposed budget, which totals \$31,359,800, a 1.80% increase over the FY17 budget. This budget represents a 1.35% increase in town assessments based on the 15% taxable property method. Mr. Mangano noted that the four member towns do not fully agree on the assessment method for FY2018, but the assessment method working group has met multiple times and there is a Four Towns meeting scheduled for this Saturday, February 11. The presentation included a general list of what the adds/cuts would be based on both the 15% taxable property method and the statutory method for assessments. Mr. Mangano and Dr. Morris answered clarifying questions for the committee throughout the presentation. The committee requested additional information on the athletic revolving fund and how the funds are used.

D. Immigration

DOCUMENT: Resolution Opposing the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Actions and the Deportation of Durham Public Schools Students; Resolution No. 5363 Rights of Undocumented Students and Protocols for INS and ICE Access to Schools; SFUSD Advises Schools, Reassures Families re. Procedures in the Event of Immigration and Customs Enforcement Raids

Mr. Nakajima noted that Dr. Morris emailed samples of resolutions that other school districts have developed regarding immigration enforcement given the current national climate. This is a topic that is being introduced tonight so the committee can consider whether they want to develop such a resolution at a future meeting. Dr. Morris noted that the samples he shared define how the district will respond to situations that may arise, which provides an additional level of safety for students and families who may be feeling vulnerable. Ms. Ordonez noted that she is fully in favor of developing such a resolution for our districts. Mr. Baptiste asked what the process will be for developing this document, noting that a resolution not backed by policy has no real impact, and discussion followed. It was suggested that a resolution can be developed expeditiously with parallel policy development, which may take more time. Mr. Baptiste, Mr. Nakajima, Ms. Douangmany Cage and Ms. Ordonez volunteered to work with Dr. Morris to develop a draft resolution. Ms. Douangmany Cage withdrew her name in order to avoid a quorum of Amherst members.

E. Accept Gifts

Ms. Ordonez moved to accept \$50 from the Florence Bank for the Help a Friend Program, \$250 from Marshall and Annie Jones for the James Faison Scholarship, \$100 from Terry Ray and Margo Mace for the Ted Madden Scholarship, \$500 from Anthony Reynolds Sr. Memorial Fund for the Anthony Reynolds Sr. Memorial Scholarship, and \$25 from Betsy Dinger for the ARMS Orchestra. Mr. Baptiste seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

F. Superintendent’s Goals

DOCUMENT: Superintendent’s Performance Goals--Regional dated February 2017

Dr. Morris briefly reviewed the four Superintendent goals he has developed for the Region this year. Mr. Baptiste moved to accept the four goals as presented. Ms. Goscenski seconded and the motion was unanimously approved with Ms. Douangmany Cage abstaining.

G. Policy for First Reading

DOCUMENT: New Policy--Disposal of Surplus Materials

This item was tabled until a future meeting.

5. School Committee Planning

9:44 p.m.

Upcoming topics include law firm selection process, presentation by the Director of The Collaborative, homework practice changes at the high school as part of the homework discussion, attendance policy

6. Adjourn

9:52 p.m.

Ms. Gosencki moved to adjourn at 9:52 p.m. Ms. Douangmany Cage seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,
Debbie Westmoreland

Approved 2/14/17