

**Regional School Committee Meeting
Tuesday, June 27, 2017
Library, Amherst Regional High School**

IN ATTENDANCE

Eric Nakajima, Chair
Vira Douangmany Cage
Audra Goscenski
Phoebe Hazzard
Ron Mannino
Emily Marriott
Anastasia Ordonez
Stephen Sullivan

Mike Morris, Interim Superintendent
Sean Mangano, Finance Director
Debbie Westmoreland, Recorder

ABSENT

Peter Demling

1. Call to Order and Approve Minutes

6:33 p.m.

Mr. Nakajima called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. Ms. Ordonez moved to approve the minutes of June 13, 2017. Ms. Hazzard seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

2. Announcements and Public Comment

6:35 p.m.

Mr. Jenkins from Amherst Media arrived at 6:36 p.m. with apologies for getting the meeting time wrong. The committee recessed for 10 minutes to allow him time to set up so the meeting can be live streamed on Amherst Media. The committee reconvened at 6:47 p.m. There were no public comments. On behalf of the School Committee, Mr. Nakajima expressed condolences on the death of Massachusetts Education Commissioner Mitchell Chester. Mr. Nakajima noted that the date for the School Committee retreat will be Tuesday, August 15 at 6:00 p.m. since it was the best date for all members per the online poll.

3. New and Continuing Business

6:49 p.m.

A. Superintendent Evaluation

DOCUMENT: Evaluation Summary from the Amherst-Pelham Regional School Committee

Mr. Nakajima and Ms. Marriott outlined the way in which they prepared the evaluation summary for Dr. Morris' evaluation. Ms. Marriott noted that it is an objective summary that provides averages based on all of the members' responses to the evaluation survey. Mr. Nakajima noted that almost all of the ratings were either proficient or exemplary, with all of the goals being rated as significant improvement, met or exceeded. Ms. Marriott explained that the overall rating in each standard was proficient, the overall rating was proficient and the overall rating on all of the goals was met. Ms. Douangmany Cage expressed appreciation for the period of relative calm during Dr. Morris' tenure as superintendent. Ms. Goscenski then moved to approve the summative evaluation as presented. Ms. Marriott seconded and the motion was unanimously approved. Dr. Morris thanked the committee for their support throughout the year, noting that the calmness Ms. Douangmany Cage mentioned was due in large part to the collaborative way in which he and the School Committee have worked. Ms. Ordonez stated that people she has spoken to, including parents, teachers and community members, have been overwhelmingly supportive of Dr. Morris' work and have noted that they feel they are being invited into a conversation about the important work of the district.

B. Regional Transportation Reimbursement Transfer to FY18 Budget

Mr. Mangano noted that the Regional School Committee approved the creation of the regional transportation revolving fund in 2014 and explained the need to transfer FY17 funds into the revolving fund for use in FY18.

After brief clarifying questions, Ms. Marriott moved to transfer \$52,930 of FY17 regional transportation aid into the regional transportation revolving fund. Ms. Ordonez seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

B. Bill S223 Foundation Budget Resolution

DOCUMENT: Regional School Committee Resolution regarding Bill S223

Mr. Nakajima noted that this bill was discussed at the last Regional meeting and was discussed with Representative Goldstein-Rose at the Amherst meeting on June 14. He explained that this bill is to show that the Massachusetts legislature is committed to reforming the formula for chapter 70 funding. The purpose of the School Committee's resolution would be to put the committee on record of being in support of the bill. Ms. Douangmany Cage moved to adopt the resolution as presented. Ms. Hazzard seconded and, after brief comments from the committee about the importance of Bill S223, the motion was unanimously approved.

4. School Committee Planning

7:15 p.m.

Ms. Westmoreland distributed copies of the calendar of meetings for the upcoming school year. Mr. Nakajima noted that the retreat will be scheduled on August 15. Topics will include an open meeting law overview with the new law firm; developing a more organized, ongoing orientation for new members; and organizing the agendas differently. Mr. Nakajima encouraged members of the committee to share any topics they would like to map out on the calendar for the year at the August 15 meeting. Ms. Ordonez noted that SETF would like to identify times on a couple of agendas next year to provide reports or address the Regional Committee. Ms. Douangmany Cage explained that the SETF wants to work with the committee to determine how best to identify and request the types of data needed to address issues of importance to their work. Mr. Nakajima noted that another topic at the retreat will be how to improve the functionality of the committee's meetings and agendas. It was agreed that the Superintendent Evaluation Subcommittee will meet prior to the retreat so they can share information about planning for the evaluation cycle next year. It was agreed that Mr. Nakajima, Ms. Marriott and Ms. Ordonez will meet to draft an agenda for the retreat. Ms. Westmoreland will conduct a doodle poll for the subcommittee meeting and the retreat planning meeting.

5. Adjourn

7:41 p.m.

Ms. Marriott moved to adjourn at 7:41 p.m. Ms. Douangmany Cage seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,
Debbie Westmoreland