

Amherst-Pelham Regional School Committee Meeting
Friday, November 18, 2016
Library, Amherst Regional High School

IN ATTENDANCE

Trevor Baptise (via phone)
Katherine Appy
Vira Douangmany-Cage
Emily Marriott
Eric Nakajima
Anastasia Ordonez

Attorney Tom Colomb (via phone)

Mr. Nakajima called the meeting to order at 6:07pm. Chair determined that a physical quorum was present and meeting could proceed.

The only item on the agenda was to finalize the Committee's response to the Open Meeting Law (OML) complaint (*Michael Hootstein v. Amherst-Pelham Regional School Committee*). Nakajima asked the Committee to review edits to the letter one last time and submit any final questions or comments to the Committee for discussion.

Dr. Baptise asked why one of the motions he had proposed in an earlier meeting to add the email thread of June 23 and June 24 (an email thread from Debbie Westmoreland to the Committee) as an exhibit was not done. Dr. Baptise asked that the email be included in the materials as a response. Dr. Appy asked if Mr. Colomb had any recommendations about this, and Mr. Colomb said that this email was probably more information than needed, but the Committee agreed to add the email thread to the exhibits.

Mr. Nakajima said that as a technical and specific matter that the word "ongoing" found in section 2 was erroneous, because the Committee was not aware of any contract negotiation prior to their first executive session meeting. A conversation ensued about the sequence of events during the separation agreement between the superintendent and the Committee, and the role played by their respective counsels.

Ms. Ordonez moved to accept the edits to the letter, and Ms. Appy seconded. A roll call vote was called; all ayes with one abstention (Mr. Nakajima).

Ms. Douangmany-Cage then moved to suspend the implementation of a new food policy that would give students with unpaid lunch account balances a lower-cost replacement lunch, but Mr. Nakajima explained that he had already had a conversation with Superintendent Morris who had recommended that the policy be suspended. Ms. Cage further expounded that it would be really helpful for families who may be struggling with holiday expenses to not have an added burden of having to pay off their lunch account balances immediately. Mr. Nakajima said that he would ask Superintendent Morris to send out a statement letting families know that the policy was being suspended.

Mr. Colomb asked that Debbie Westmoreland forward the email thread for June 23-24 so that he could add them as exhibits.

Ms. Douangmany-Cage moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:31 p.m., and Ms. Hazzard seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,
Anastasia Ordonez