

**Amherst-Pelham Regional School Committee Meeting
Tuesday September 9, 2014
Library, Amherst Regional High School**

In Attendance

Trevor Baptiste, Chair
Stephen Sullivan
Dan Robb
Rick Hood
Katherine Appy
Kathleen Traphagen
Amilcar Shabazz
Lawrence O'Brien
Sarah Dolven
Myles Olmsted, Student Representative

Maria Geryk, Superintendent
Mike Morris, Assistant Superintendent
Mark Jackson, ARHS Principal
Public and Press
Debbie Westmoreland, Recorder

1. Welcome and Agenda Review

7:00 PM

A. Call to Order and Agenda Review

Mr. Baptiste called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and reviewed the agenda.

B. Approve Minutes (8:03 p.m.)

Mr. Hood moved to approve the minutes of June 24, 2014 and August 14, 2014. Ms. Dolven and Mr. Shabazz noted minor corrections to the August 14 minutes, and the motion was approved unanimously.

2. Public Comments

7:05 p.m.

Mr. Baptiste welcomed Myles Olmsted, Student Advisory Council representative to the Regional School Committee. He announced that the School Committee has invited the student representatives from the Student Advisory Council and their parents/guardians to a “meet and greet” dinner with the School Committee on September 17th. Ms. Traphagen, Vice-Chair, invited Lisa Cain, parent, and Ruby Cain, student, to make their public comments. Ms. Cain and her daughter Ruby both spoke in opposition to the recent decision to ban dogs on school grounds during school hours.

3A. Subcommittee Updates

7:15 PM

- **AEF**—Mr. Hood reported that there is a meeting of the board in a week or so because they are just getting started for the year.
- **Budget Subcommittee**—Mr. Hood noted that this subcommittee will not meet until the budget process begins.
- **The Collaborative**—Mr. Baptiste reported that the last meeting was a retreat to develop goals from each of the Collaborative’s member towns.
- **Policy Subcommittee**—Mr. O'Brien reported that the Policy Subcommittee is bringing two policies for a second reading tonight and has begun discussion of the Public Comment Policy. He noted that the initial feeling of the subcommittee is that the text of the policy is adequate and it is just a matter of how it is implemented. Mr. Hood noted that he would suggest revising the policy to include a requirement that the Chair seek a vote of the Board if he/she wishes to continue public comment beyond the 15 minutes allowed in the policy.
- **School Equity Task Force (Proposed)**—Mr. Shabazz reported that the SETF is scheduled to meet on October 2 at 7:00 p.m. in the ARHS library (if it is available). Ms. Traphagen noted that she and Mr. Shabazz have met with each subcommittee of the SETF and will be meeting with Ms. Geryk’s Climate Advisory Committee to determine how the work of the two groups can best intersect.
- **District Trends Subcommittee (Proposed)**—Mr. Hood reported that the District Trends Subcommittee met at 5:30 today and discussed the types of data from the DESE website they want to track in an easy-to-use format. They also discussed working with Mr. Morris on use of data from student, parent and staff surveys.

- **RAWG**—Ms. Appy reported that a meeting scheduled for last week was postponed because the facilitator was not available that evening. She noted that the group is at a point in which they are reaching some real agreement on issues.

B. Reorganize Subcommittees

Mr. Baptiste noted that the subcommittee membership needs to be set for the 2014-2015 school year. The subcommittee membership will be:

- **Budget Subcommittee:** Mr. Hood (Chair), Ms. Appy, Ms. Traphagen, Ms. Dolven
- **Policy Subcommittee:** Ms. Appy, Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Robb (Chair)
- **Collaborative Representative:** Mr. O'Brien (Amherst), Mr. Baptiste (Pelham), Ms. Dolven (Region)
- **School Equity Task Force:** Mr. Shabazz, Ms. Traphagen, Mr. Sullivan
- **Data Trends Subcommittee:** Mr. Hood, Ms. Traphagen, Ms. Marriott, Mr. Baptiste
- **Professional Leave Request Subcommittee:** Mr. Baptiste, Ms. Appy, Mr. Modestow
- **APAA Negotiating Committee:** Ms. Appy, Mr. O'Brien
- **Negotiating Team with Four Units:** Ms. Appy, Mr. Hood
- **Clerical Merit Award Committee:** Ms. Appy

5. New and Continuing Business

8:11 p.m.

A. FY14 Budget Final Budget

DOCUMENTS: Amherst-Pelham Regional School District Fiscal Year 2014 End-of-Year Budget Report

Mr. Mangano distributed and reviewed the highlights of the FY14 Budget final report, noting that the year ended 1.53% under budget. He answered clarifying questions regarding the cost of vocational school tuition, E & D, and historic trends for volatile budget lines such as special education costs. Ms. Dolven asked if it is possible to get a year-to-date budget report at each monthly meeting with any red flag areas identified. Ms. Geryk noted that she would just want to make sure that is feasible with the amount of work required for the Business Office in managing three districts. Mr. Mangano suggested doing more frequent reports toward the end of the fiscal year because that is when areas of concern become more evident.

B. Superintendent Evaluation Orientation/Priority Elements

DOCUMENTS: Required v. Local Control; Part IV--Implementation Guide for Superintendent Evaluation; The Massachusetts Model System for Educator Evaluation--Part III: Guide to Rubrics and Model Rubrics for Superintendent, Administrator, and Teacher Appendix A. Superintendent Rubric and Part IV: Implementation Guide for Superintendent Evaluation

Mr. Morris reviewed what elements are required as part of the state evaluation process and what falls under local control. He also reviewed the five step evaluation cycle and the four standards on which ratings must be based: 1) Instructional Leadership, 2) Management and Operations, 3) Family and Community Engagement, and 4) Professional Culture. Discussion followed regarding the process and Mr. Morris answered clarifying questions. The committee then discussed postponing identifying the priority elements until a meeting later in September to allow all members adequate time to review the elements and identify those they feel are of the highest priority. It was agreed that each member will select four elements that best reflect their values to bring for discussion at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 16 prior to the regularly-scheduled Amherst meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Policy Process

Mr. Baptiste noted that Ms. Traphagen asked for a discussion of the policy process. Ms. Traphagen stated she wanted to discuss it simply out of concern about whether the Policy Subcommittee has too much work to keep up with the load. Discussion followed regarding the current district policies regarding this process and whether there is a way to expedite the work by sharing some of the process through the full committee. There were no decisions made regarding changes to the current practice.

Policies for Second Reading

DOCUMENTS: Fingerprinting Policy Draft for Second Reading; Service Animals Policy Draft for Second Reading

A. Fingerprinting Policy: Ms. Appy moved to approve the policy as presented. Mr. O'Brien seconded and the motion was approved with six in favor, Mr. Baptiste opposed and Mr. Robb and Mr. Shabazz abstaining.

B. Service Animals Policy: Mr. O'Brien reviewed the concerns that were expressed after the first reading of this policy. Ms. Appy moved to approve the policy as presented. Mr. Hood seconded and discussion followed. To address concerns about access of guests to bring service animals to school events, Mr. Shabazz suggested striking "subject to the following" from the introductory paragraph and adding "an individual attending or working in our schools," to the first bullet point under the introductory paragraph. Mr. Robb moved to accept the amended language. Mr. Shabazz seconded and the motion was approved. The original motion to approve the Service Animal policy was then unanimously approved.

6. School Committee Planning

9:41 p.m.

A. Calendar and Future Agenda Items—Mr. Shabazz requested that a report on MCAS results be added to an agenda, Ms. Appy requested later start as an agenda item, and Mr. Robb requested the advocacy letter regarding high-stakes testing, being prepared by Mr. Hood, as an agenda item.

7. Adjournment

9:53 p.m.

Mr. Hood moved to adjourn at 9:53 p.m. Mr. O'Brien seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,
Debbie Westmoreland