

November 14, 2007

The November meeting of the Amherst Teachers' Association was called to order by President Scott Pecze. Lisa Schenk moved that the minutes from the October meeting be accepted. Jen Henry seconded the motion. The minutes from the previous meeting were accepted as submitted.

The treasurer's report was given by Treasurer Diana Beetler. See attached. There has been lots of action.

Insurance-Use the link <http://www.amherstta.ohea.us/>
Forty-one people has signed up for the 125 plan. Jean Timko will accept those interested through this Friday.

LPDC-Seven hours need to be completed by Dec. 31.
Begin thinking about requirements for RTI, etc. If we have a list of things we need, we can decide who will teach. Remember you all have a wealth of knowledge. Dream up a mini-inservice and share it with your peers.

Policy Review-reminder: OEA is having difficulty defending people who are communicating with students on My Space and programs of that nature

Election: The four people on the ballot were elected. They are Scott Pecze, Holly Miller-McGuire, Kristi Wheatley, and Steve Latta. Congrats!

Social-There is a wonderful party planned at Ziggy's. It will begin at 3:00 on Friday, Nov. 16th. ATA will provide snacks. There will be a cash bar. Go to our website to see the flyer. Diana Beetler moved that our maximum amount for snack and tip be \$300. Diana seconded the motion. The motion carried. **Thank you, Lisa Schenk, our new social director!!**

Old Business-The meet and greet debate went well. Thanks to the high school groups for organizing and taking a interest in our local government. Thanks to JSA, Steele News, Steele Law and Gvoernment Tech, Mr. Haber, Mr. Lowrie, and Mr. McConihe for all of your efforts.

Website-What should we add to this site? Maybe we should add the financial guys. Mr. Heddleson and Mr. Bove could add information on sheltering severance pay. Let Scott know if you have any suggestions.

New Business-The request for the approval of the changes was opened for discussion. (At this point of the meeting, Scott began taking the minutes.) Much discussion about this issue took place. When the discussion began, several buildings were in objection to the plan as initially proposed. There is a great deal of concern and displeasure about rushing the process of compiling the issues that will be addressed by this levy. While we agree the issues presented in the request for approval are valid concerns of the community and should be addressed, we are extremely disappointed more items to improve the education of our students are not being addressed. We also question if the schedule option presented is the best option. Scott reported the following:

- Mr. Boynton will come around to all the buildings to discuss the issues concerning the levy.
- The proposed schedule will not be part of the proposal. The schedule will looked at by a committee made up of members from each building, the administration, and Mr. Miller.
- The specific details of the campaign will be looked at over the next month and will not be part of the initial board resolution to place a levy on the March ballot.
- Not passing a levy would put us in a situation we would not be happy with. We would be assured not to get any of things we need to better deliver education to our students and further cuts would have to be made.

A great deal of discussion and expressing the concerns of each building. In the end it was concluded most of the concerns have already been addressed or there is a plan to address them. This coupled with the obvious need for an operating levy and the repercussions of not passing a levy brought this difficult issue to the following motion.

Scott moved to support the following as requested by Mr. Boynton and the future planning committee of the board of education:

1. The Amherst Board of Education take the necessary steps in November and December of 2007 to place a 5.9 mill emergency operating levy on the March 4, 2008 ballot.
2. If this levy is approved, the Pay to Participate fee be reduced to \$200 per year, beginning August of 2008.
3. If the levy is approved, the one mile limit on busing be restored for grades K-8, beginning August 27, 2008.
4. If the levy is approved, students in grades K-3 be allowed to be picked up at one location, and dropped off at another location, beginning August 27, 2008.
5. If the levy is approved, the daily schedule will be changed beginning August 27, 2008, to allow for the one mile busing limit, K-3 pick up - drop off, and removal of Powers from the early start time under the condition that Mr. Boynton meet with each school to discuss the levy issues and each buildings concerns as well as forming a committee to look at possible schedule options for next school year in the event a levy passes in March.

To support the following as requested by Mr. Boynton and the future planning committee of the board of education:

Laura Brogan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. collaboration

Each building should have formed a committee to open the lines of communication between all staff and the principal to better deal with building issues. The building reps were asked to make sure this is done and to make sure it is functioning at an adequate level. Scott reported Mr. Boynton will be addressing the same issue with the principals.

C. Supt. Search

Scott has requested that ATA be included in the search for the new superintendent. The certified staff will be part the process to some degree under the current plan, but we would like to be included in the interview process at some level. The selection of the new superintendent will be the board's decision, and we feel we have a lot to add to the process to ensure the right person is selected by the board.

A. Shupe Copiers? Mr. Boynton is aware of the situation and will be in contact with the building reps to look for solutions. Building cleanliness issues were also raised. With the pending hiring of a new head custodian, hopefully this will improve.

B. Powers

C. Harris

D. Nord requested that flu shots be given on a second date to accommodate staff that cannot attend the wellness fair.

E. AJH Planning time is still an issue with all of the duties staff has. Mr. Boynton is aware of the situation and will be speaking with Mr. Diamond on the issue.

F. Steele

10. Tidbits: Leo Spagnola and his wife, April, had a baby boy. He's about two weeks old now. Congratulations. Leo teaches social studies at the junior high.

Michael Andrew Passerello, Jr. was born on November 9th. His dad teaches health at AJH. Mike, Mom Amanda and Michael are doing great. The best to them.

Stephanie Boggs moved that the meeting be adjourned. Lisa Misson seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned. Those present were: Holly Miller-McGuire, Alex Baldwin, Lisa Misson, Diana Beetler, Stephanie Boggs, Jennifer Henry, Sue Schneider, Joe Mullen, Sue White, Debbie LeSuer, Kim Obbey, Scott Pecze, Lisa Schenk, and Laura Brogan.