

Amherst Exempted Village Board of Education

550 Milan Avenue
Amherst, OH 44001
(440) 988-4406 - Fax (440) 988-4413

Special Board Meeting - Wednesday, June 17, 2026, at 8:00 A.M.
M.L. Steele Creative Learning Center
450 Washington St.
Amherst, OH 44001

Each meeting of the Amherst Board of Education is held in public for the purpose of conducting the School District's business and is not to be considered a public community meeting. There is a time for public participation during the meeting as indicated on the agenda.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order:

Meeting called to order by:

Time:

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call:

Mrs. Teresa Gilles, Board President - **Present / Absent**

Dr. Amanda Messer, Board Vice President - **Present / Absent**

Mr. Rex Engle, Board Member - **Present / Absent**

Ms. Holly Koepp, Board Member - **Present / Absent**

Mr. Marc Zappa, Board Member - **Present / Absent**

4. Recommendation to adopt/amend the agenda as presented, including any addendum(s).

Roll call vote:

Mr. Engle _____, Mrs. Gilles _____, Ms. Koepp _____, Dr. Messer _____, Mr. Zappa _____

5. Hearing of the Public:

The Public Participation section of the Board of Education's agenda is specifically designed for the public to address the Board with their compliments and/or concerns. The Board welcomes and appreciates your comments. If you wish to address the board regarding a problem, please consider the following: First, your comments should be factual and respectful of the rights of others. Second, before addressing the Board with a specific problem, it is the Board's hope that you have first addressed the problem with the appropriate teacher, staff member or administrator. Individual statements should not exceed five (5) minutes and total time shall be a maximum of thirty (30) minutes.

(If planning to address the Board, please complete the sign-in sheet.)

Notes:

6. Treasurer's Recommendations:

A. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education amend and/or approve the board minutes for the 5/11/2026 Regular Board meeting.

B. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education approve the treasurer's financial reports for the month of May, 2026, as per exhibits **6A, 6B, 6C, and 6D**.

C. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education accept and acknowledge the receipt of the following donations to the Amherst Schools:

- An anonymous donation of \$300 to pay for an eighth grader's Washington, D.C. trip in October of 2026.
- An anonymous donation of \$962 to pay school fees for eight senior students.
- Amherst United Methodist Church for a \$400 donation to help assist students (grades K-3) with lunch balances.
- An anonymous donation of an acoustic guitar valued at \$300 to be used in the AJH music department.
- Matthew Johnson, Powers Elementary teacher, for a donation of two (2) trumpets, a mouth piece and case valued at \$750, to the band at M.L. Steele.
- Powers PTO for a \$1,300 donation to pay for a 3rd grade field trip.
- Nordson for a \$20,000 donation for the Naming Rights to the new Bullpen.

Roll call vote:

Mr. Engle _____, Mrs. Gilles _____, Ms. Koepp _____, Dr. Messer _____, Mr. Zappa _____

7. Personnel Recommendations:

A. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education accept the following resignations as indicated, and authorize the Superintendent and/or Treasurer to execute any necessary documents relating to separation of employment:

- **Denise Abbott**, Assistant Principal, M.L. Steele, effective 7/31/2026
- **Brittany Asbury**, PT Cook/Cashier, Powers, effective 5/29/2026
- **Chloe Backman**, 4th Grade Teacher, Nord, effective 7/31/2026
- **Roger Bilski**, Head Custodian, AJH, effective 6/19/2026
- **Katheline Cooney**, Scholastic Awards Banquet, effective 4/1/2026
- **Christine Diaz**, Guidance Counselor, M.L. Steele, effective 7/31/2026
- **Christine Diaz**, Scholastic Awards Banquet, effective 4/1/2026
- **Lyndsey Donat**, Student Attendant, M.L. Steele, effective 8/14/2026
- **Ashley Florek**, PT Cook/Cashier at Powers, effective 8/14/2026
- **Sarah Rigda**, Scholastic Awards Banquet, effective 4/1/2026
- **Stephanie Riggs**, ELA Teacher, AJH, effective 8/14/2026
- **Jacqueline Sergeant**, Intervention Specialist, Powers, effective 8/14/2026
- **Amanda Taylor**, Cook/Cashier, Powers, effective 8/14/2026
- **Rebecca Urbanik**, Math Teacher, AJH, effective 8/1/2026

B. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education employ the following individual(s), as indicated, on a 30 or 60-day probationary contract, for the **2026-2027** school year pending completion of all employment requirements, including but not limited to a background check. Proper placement on the negotiated salary schedule pending verification of all prior experience:

- **Ashley Florek**, 30-day probationary contract, Head Cook at M.L. Steele, effective 8/17/2026
- **Amanda Taylor**, 30-day probationary contract, Intensive Needs Aide, Powers, effective 8/17/2026

C. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education employ the following individual(s), as indicated, on one-year contract, for the **2026-2027** school year pending completion of all employment requirements, including but not limited to a background check. Proper placement on the negotiated salary schedule pending verification of all prior experience:

- **Ty Griebbe**, Paraprofessional, Powers, effective 8/14/2026
- **Jessica Heben**, M.L. Steele Guidance Counselor, 199 day contract, effective 8/3/2026
- **Emily Matakovich**, 3rd Grade Teacher, Powers, effective 8/14/2026
- **Sarah Roberts**, 3rd Grade Teacher, Powers, effective 8/14/2026

- **Ekaterini (Catherine) Szucs**, Intervention Specialist, PreK, Powers, effective 8/14/2026

D. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education employ the following individual(s) as certified and/or classified substitutes for the **2025-2026** school year, as indicated, with compensation at the board approved substitute rates pending completion of all employment requirements, including, but not limited to licensure/certification (if required) and a BCI & FBI background check:

CLASSIFIED

Cherri Cumberledge, effective 5/4/2026

E. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education approve the changes in contracted status for the following individuals for the **2026-2027** school year as indicated:

- **Elizabeth Bendlak**, ELA Teacher at AJH to ELA Teacher at M.L. Steele, effective 8/17/2026
- **Tina Dever**, 3rd Grade teacher at Powers to 4th Grade teacher at Nord, effective 8/17/2026
- **Lyndsey Donat**, Student Attendant at M.L. Steele to Intensive Needs Aide at Nord, effective 8/17/2026
- **Gia Hober**, Intervention Specialist at Powers to Intervention Specialist at AJH, effective 8/17/2026
- **Natalie Hostutler**, District Literacy Coach to Title 1 Supplemental Improvement Reading Interventionist, effective 8/17/2026
- **William King**, Custodian II at AJH to Custodian II at M.L. Steele, effective 7/1/2026
- **Rebecca McArthur**, Dean of Students at Nord to Assistant Principal at M.L. Steele, effective 8/1/2026
- **Mark Morgan**, Custodian II at Powers to Custodian II at Nord, effective 7/1/2026
- **Christy Perry**, Nord Music/Band Teacher to AJH/M.L. Steele Music/Band Teacher, effective 8/17/2026
- **Connie Rose**, Custodian II at Powers to Custodian II at AJH, effective 7/1/2026
- **Tammy Sampson**, Custodian II at Powers to Custodian II at AJH, effective 7/1/2026
- **Elizabeth Schwartz**, District Coach to AJH Technology, effective 8/17/2026
- **Nichole Smolik**, PT Cook/Cashier at M.L. Steele to Assistant Cook at AJH, effective 8/17/2026
- **Jeremiah Soto**, Intensive Needs Aide at AJH to Intensive Needs Aide at Powers, effective 8/17/2026
- **Jill Williams**, Spanish Teacher at Powers to Spanish Teacher at M.L. Steele, effective 8/17/2026
- **Christina Zilko**, Intensive Needs Aide at Powers to Intensive Needs Aide at AJH, effective effective 8/17/2026

F. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education grant a supplemental contract to the individuals from the **Transportation Department** to work on an "as needed basis" during the **summer of 2026**, as per **attachment 7A**. (This list is a corrected list from the one previously board approved on 5/11/2026.)

G. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education approve **Katherine Walker** as an Intensive Needs Aide for the **2025-2026 Extended School Year (ESY)**.

H. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education approve **David Leonard**, to be paid up to 28 hours at his hourly rate for his work in regards to Computer Science.

I. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education approve the recall of the following certified and classified employees from the Reduction in Force (RIF) list for the **2026-2027** school year. The recommended individual meets the required qualifications and has been identified in accordance with district policy, applicable collective bargaining agreement, and operational staffing needs of the District:

- **Gavin Csizamadia**, Custodian II
- **Matthew Wilkosz**, Science Teacher, AJH

J. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education grant the following classified personnel a one-year or two-year limited contract for the **2026-2027** school year:

- **Nichole Smolik**, 1st Two year contract
- **Jody Vanegas**, 2nd Two year contract

K. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education approve the **OAPSE Tentative Agreement (TA's)** that was voted on and approved on 4/22/2026, as per **exhibit 7A**.

L. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education approve the following new job description:

- **Title 1 Supplemental Improvement Reading Interventionist**, as per **attachment 7B**.

M. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education grant a supplemental contract to the following individuals for the spring and/or year-round extra-curricular activities during the **2025-2026** school year, pending completion of all employment requirements, including but not limited to Pupil Activity Permit, if required for positions, and a BCI and FBI background check with compensation at the board approved rate:

- **Sharon Arendash**, Scholastic Awards Banquet ½ contract
- **Jacqueline Doeher**, Scholastic Awards Banquet ½ contract

N. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education approve (3) three hours (each) of professional development for TeachTown curriculum at a rate of \$38.75 for the following teachers:

- **Natalie Foster**
- **Hannah Vieta**
- **Nicole Weaver**

Roll call vote:

Mr. Engle _____, Mrs. Gilles _____, Ms. Koepp _____, Dr. Messer _____, Mr. Zappa _____

8. Educational Recommendations:

A. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education approve the **Preschool Agreement** with the **Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities (LCBDD)**, for the **2026-2027** school year, as per **exhibit 8A**.

B. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education approve the contracts with **New Story Schools**, for two individual students to receive services, for the **2026-2027** school year as per **exhibits 8B and 8C**.

C. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education approve the agreement with **STEPS Educational Group**, for a student with special needs for the **2026-2027** school year as per **exhibit 8D**.

D. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education approve the agreements with **Education Alternatives** for the education and transportation of students for the **2026-2027** school year as per **exhibits 8E and 8F**.

E. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education approve the contract with **New Story Schools**, for ESY (extended school year) **2026** services for one student as per **exhibit 8G**.

F. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education approve the new and/or revised board policies, as per **exhibits 8H through 8P**.

G. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education approve the agreement with **inFocus Photobooths, LLC** for the **2026** homecoming dance, as per **exhibit 8Q**.

H. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education approve the contract with **Professional Van Service Co.**, for the transportation of students for the **2026-2027** school year as per **exhibit 8R**.

I. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education approve the following overnight trip(s):

- Boys and Girls Cross Country - Camp Pittenger 8877 Township Road 131 in McCutchenville, Ohio, 7/23/2026 to 7/27/2026, as per **exhibit 8S**.
- Boys and Girls Cross Country - Competition, Fortress Orbetz, Orbetz, Ohio, 8/14/2026 to 8/15/2026, as per **exhibit 8T**.

J. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education approve the agreement with the **Cleveland Clinic Lerner School for Autism** for the **2026-2027** school year as per **exhibit 8U**.

K. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education approve the contracts with **Spectrum Growth / Spectrum Inspires** for a student with special needs and for student transportation for the **2026-2027** school year as per **exhibits 8V and 8W**.

L. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education approve the contract with **Applewood Centers, Inc.**, and operating **The Gerson School**, for educational needs of students requiring special education and related services, for the **2026-2027** school year as per **exhibit 8X**.

M. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education enter into a contract with **The Educational Service Center of Lorain County** for participation in **Project Search**, for the **2026-2027** school year as per **exhibit 8Y**.

Roll call vote:

Mr. Engle _____, **Mrs. Gilles** _____, **Ms. Koepp** _____, **Dr. Messer** _____, **Mr. Zappa** _____

9. Business Recommendations:

A. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education approve the **Certificate of Standards Governing Types of Foods and Beverages** sold on school premises report for the **2025-2026** school year as per **exhibit 9A**.

B. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education approve the agreement with **Sedgwick Group-Retrospective-Rating Program** enrollment for FY2027 as per **exhibit 9B**.

C. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education approve the payment for **Frontline Technologies Group, LLC** for the **Analytics Solution - powered by Forecast5** as per **exhibit 9C**.

D. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education approve the service quote for **Midstates Energy Solutions** for improvement of the outdoor light fixtures at the soccer/softball/baseball complex at AJH as per **exhibit 9D**.

E. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education approve the agreement with **Audio Extremes Entertainment Group, Ltd.**, for the 10/3/2026 homecoming dance, as per **exhibit 9E**.

F. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education approve the one-year contract with **Navigate360** for Nord School's PBIS subscription as per **exhibit 9F**.

G. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education approve the contract with **STEP CP LLC**, as per **exhibit 9G**.

H. That the Amherst E.V. Board of Education approve the property, fleet and liability insurance renewal with **SORSA (Schools of Ohio Risk Sharing Authority)** as per **exhibit 9H**.

Roll call vote:

Mr. Engle _____, **Mrs. Gilles** _____, **Ms. Koepp** _____, **Dr. Messer** _____, **Mr. Zappa** _____

10. Board Discussion:

- Vouchers Hurt Ohio
- Financial update
- Levy planning
- Project update

11. Adjournment.

Roll call vote:

Mr. Engle _____, **Mrs. Gilles** _____, **Ms. Koepp** _____, **Dr. Messer** _____, **Mr. Zappa** _____

ADDRESSING THE BOARD:

School patrons are reminded when addressing the Board, statements about school employees, students or parents must be accurate and that all remarks made at a public board meeting are subject to the libel and slander laws of the State of Ohio.

Patrons wishing to meet privately with the school board are asked to contact the Superintendent prior to the Board meeting so that the agenda may be adjusted and a time can be arranged.

MEETINGS AND EXECUTIVE SESSIONS:

This meeting and notices of all meetings are in compliance with O.R.C. 121.22. This Board of Education shall discuss in Executive Session only those items allowed in O.R.C. 121.22.

Board of Education members receive their copies of the agenda 72 hours prior to each meeting. This provides them with time to review all items, request additional information, if needed, and establish a position prior to the call for a vote.

2026 Transportation Summer Staff
Supplemental Contract

The following individuals will be hired on a supplemental contract for Summer 2026 for the transportation department as indicated for summer trips, bus route assistance and SPED programs and Safety Town (in relationship with the Amherst Police Dept) with compensation set at Step 10 of the negotiated agreement for regular drivers and board approved substitute driver rate Sub Drivers. Programs such as ESY(Extended School Year)/ Lerner School/PEP/Avon/Insight Academy/STEPS/Insightful Minds will be compensated at their regular hourly rate on the bus driver salary schedule. Van drivers and/or bus/van aides will be compensated at the negotiated agreement hourly rate for regular employed individuals for their services,including assistance with Van Routes and/or the appropriate board approved substitute driver rate or substitute bus/van aide rate. All trips, programs, etc., will be on an “as needed basis”

Following Drivers for Supplemental Contracts for Summer work

Nortena Henceroth	Brad Sprague	Jayne Gregory
Nora Hicks	Stanley Peters	Carlene Crawford
Anthony Karnik	Chrystal Schigel	Paul Box
Brad Sprague	Greg Sovizral	JoeAnn Wade
Lawrence Tindale	Bret Shagovac	

ESY-Lerner School/Insight Academy/PEP/STEPS/Insightful Minds: Van/Bus Driver & Aide

Joni Wilson	Ashley Kleppe	Mechelle Wilburn	Cherri Cumberledge
Lorilee Cohoon			

SPED Programs/Aides

Yvonne Voros	Gloria Dodson
Deanna Sauer	Joziah West

JOB DESCRIPTION

Title: Powers Elementary School Title I Supplemental School Improvement Reading Interventionist

Reports To: Principal and Federal Programs Coordinator

Job Objective:

Provides supplemental, evidence-based structured literacy intervention to students with disabilities who have Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) and demonstrate significant reading deficits. Plans, implements, monitors, and evaluates targeted reading interventions aligned with the Science of Reading and structured literacy principles. Collaborates with special education staff, intervention specialists, classroom teachers, and administrators to improve literacy outcomes and accelerate student achievement.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Valid Ohio teaching license appropriate for the assignment.
- Valid Structured Literacy Specialist credential or certification (e.g., CERI Structured Literacy Classroom Teacher/ Dyslexia Interventionist, Wilson Dyslexia Practitioner, CALT, Certified Academic Language Practitioner, or equivalent approved credential).
- Demonstrated knowledge of the Science of Reading and evidence-based literacy practices.
- Experience implementing structured literacy interventions with students experiencing reading difficulties and/or dyslexia.
- Meets all mandated health requirements.
- Documentation of a clear criminal background check.
- Complies with district policies and procedures.
- Demonstrates proficiency with instructional technology and student data systems.
- Commitment to ongoing professional learning in literacy and intervention practices.

Responsibilities and Essential Functions:

The following duties are representative of performance expectations. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable qualified individuals with disabilities to perform essential functions.

- Provides direct supplemental reading intervention services to students with disabilities in individual and/or small-group settings.
- Implements evidence-based structured literacy instruction emphasizing phonological awareness, phonics, decoding, encoding, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.
- Delivers intervention programs with fidelity and in accordance with district expectations.
- Collaborates with Intervention Specialists, classroom teachers, and administrators to coordinate student support.
- Reviews intervention plans for students with disabilities to ensure services align with student needs and goals.
- Uses assessment data to identify student skill deficits and develop targeted intervention plans.

- Administers and interprets literacy screening, diagnostic, and progress-monitoring assessments.
- Maintains accurate student intervention records and progress-monitoring data.
- Provides regular reports regarding student growth and intervention effectiveness.
- Participates in MTSS, IEP, Evaluation Team Report (ETR), and other student support meetings as requested.
- Assists in identifying students who may require additional intervention or evaluation.
- Supports district school improvement efforts related to literacy achievement and outcomes for students with disabilities.
- Collaborates with instructional staff to promote evidence-based literacy practices across instructional settings.
- Maintains a positive and supportive learning environment that promotes student engagement and success.
- Communicates effectively with parents regarding student progress and intervention support.
- Upholds district policies, procedures, and confidentiality requirements.
- Participates in professional development related to structured literacy, dyslexia, intervention, and special education.
- Maintains high standards of professionalism, ethics, and student-centered decision making.
- Performs other job-related duties as assigned.

Abilities Required:

The following characteristics and skills are important for successful performance:

- Demonstrates expertise in structured literacy instructional practices.
- Maintains a strong commitment to improving outcomes for students with disabilities.
- Uses student assessment data to make instructional decisions.
- Organizes and manages intervention schedules and documentation efficiently.
- Establishes positive relationships with students, staff, and families.
- Communicates effectively through oral and written means.
- Demonstrates flexibility, initiative, and problem-solving skills.
- Maintains confidentiality and professionalism.
- Works collaboratively as a member of multidisciplinary teams.
- Exhibits patience, persistence, and resilience when supporting struggling learners.
- Maintains acceptable attendance and punctuality.

Supervisory Responsibility:

Under the direction of the principal and Federal Programs Coordinator, plans and implements intervention services, collaborates with district staff, and supports school improvement initiatives. May assist with supporting staff who support students with disabilities in evidence-based literacy practices.

Working Conditions:

Exposure to the following situations may range from remote to frequent based on circumstances and factors that may not be predictable.

- Frequent interaction with students requiring intensive academic support.
- Duties may require standing, walking, bending, reaching, and lifting instructional materials.

- Duties may require prolonged use of computer technology and assessment platforms.
- Duties may require working under timelines and reporting deadlines.
- Potential exposure to communicable diseases and student behavioral challenges.

Performance Evaluation:

Job performance shall be evaluated in accordance with Amherst Exempted Village School District Board of Education policy and the applicable negotiated agreement.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Training and experience with programs such as Wilson Reading System, Orton-Gillingham, UFLI Foundations, Phonics for Reading or similar structured literacy interventions.
- Experience working with students identified with Specific Learning Disabilities in Reading (Dyslexia).
- Experience analyzing Acadience Reading, MAP Growth, and other literacy assessment data.
- Knowledge of Ohio's Plan to Raise Literacy Achievement and Science of Reading requirements.

