



Superintendent's Corner

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Interim Superintendent

January 15, 2016

School Committee Meetings

This week, I had the opportunity to meet with the chairperson from each of the school committee subcommittees. We discussed goals for each subcommittee. There are three main subcommittees of the school committee that meet regularly - finance, personnel and policy. At the January 5th school committee meeting, Mayor Gray appointed the following members to each committee:

- Finance – Robert Chamberlain (chair), Debra LaValley, and Peter Hoyt
- Personnel – Tom McGee (chair), Debra LaValley, Gretchen Marinopoulos
- Policy – Peter Hoyt (chair), Tom McGee, Robert Chamberlain

In Our Schools

This week, I spent some time in each of the schools. The highlight of my week was the visit to Amesbury Elementary School. During my visit, I had the opportunity to observe Mr. Helliesen, building principal, working with a small group of students in the area of math. Mr. Helliesen has been helping out with the small group intervention model that AES began this year. During the week, staff members work with students on specific skill building, reinforcement of areas of difficulty, or enrichment. Later in the week, I had the chance to see the Spotlight Assembly. This assembly, which was led by fourth grade students, focused on generosity. Each grade was recognized as a whole for some aspect of displaying generosity during the past few months.

Staffing Updates

As you may know, Roy Hamond, AHS principal, has announced his retirement as of June 30, 2016. We have posted for this opening and will be interviewing within the next couple of weeks. In order to obtain feedback from students, staff, parents and community members, a survey will become available at the beginning of the week. This survey will help identify the key areas that the community feels to be important in selecting the new principal. Once the survey data has been collected, it will be made available on the district website. I will send the link to the survey by the beginning of the week.

In addition, we have a central office opening due to the resignation of Kevin Pierce, Director of Student Services. We have hired an interim director, Ms. Cindy Joyce, who will serve through the end of the school year. Ms. Joyce is a retired director who has extensive experience and expertise in meeting the needs of students with special needs. In the meantime, we have posted for the opening that will become available on July 1, 2016. We will solicit input from the community regarding the characteristics that they feel are necessary for the individual filling this position.

An interview committee is being established for each opening. The committees will include a variety of constituencies, including:

- School teaching staff
- Administration
- Parents
- School committee members
- Community members
- Students (for high school principal vacancy)
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If you are interested in serving on one of the committees, please send me an email at reeseg@amesburyma.gov and I will provide you with additional information regarding the process. While not everyone will be able to serve on the committee, I will make sure that input is sought throughout the process and will ensure a transparent process.

There is no school on Monday in celebration of the life and accomplishments of civil rights leader, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Be well and have a great *long* weekend... and, GO PATS!

Gary

