

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
AMESBURY HIGH SCHOOL
DECEMBER 21, 2010**

Present at 7:00 p.m. were Thatcher Kezer, Chair, Debra LaValley Bibeau, Bonnie Schultz, Gale Hanshaw, Tom McGee, Ann Connolly King, David Jack, Superintendent of Schools and Courtney Ouellet, SAC Representative. (*Absent: Schwartz*)

The Chair called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ms. Connolly King.

II. PRESENTATIONS

1. Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan – Lou Charette & Eliz. McAndrews

Lou Charette and Elizabeth McAndrews, Co-Chairs of the Bullying Task Force, gave a PowerPoint presentation of the highlights of the Amesbury Public Schools Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan. This presentation was followed by a question and answering period between the task force and the school committee. Mr. Jack thanked the co-chairs and the whole task force for the enormous amount of good work they accomplished in a very short time. He stated that this was one more of the unfunded mandates that we are expected to find the resources for without any financial help from the state or federal governments.

Motion by Debra LaValley Bibeau, seconded by Bonnie Schultz to take the first business item out of order for a vote. Unanimous, Yes. Student Rep., Yes.

Motion by Debra LaValley Bibeau, seconded by Tom McGee to approve the Bullying Prevention and Interventions Plan. Unanimous, Yes. Student Rep., Yes.

2. Amesbury Educational Foundation, Inc.

Joan Miller, AEFI President, was present with members of the AEFI board. Ms. Miller said that all of the board members are proud to be a part of this wonderful community. She said the board members love what AEFI does and they are always looking for ways to make it better. The board will have three new members after the new year; Paula Blair, Ralph Noon and Deb Smith, Pettengill House, Inc. Director.

The board members in attendance were: Laurie Knapp, Lane Glenn, Ann Gagne, Cathy Toomey, Teresa Axten, Meryl Goldsmith, Harriet Gould and Peter Brown Hoyt.

Ms. Miller gave a brief update of AEFI's efforts to raise money and give it to people who will use it to help the children of Amesbury. They continue to receive donations from actor Jeffrey Donovan, star of the television series *Burn Notice*. AEFI awards a \$10,000 scholarship in the fall chosen through grant applications from school personnel.

A question and answer period followed.

3. ELL/ESL Presentation – Kathleen Glennon

Ms. Glennon, Director of Special Education, shared statistics with the committee on the number of students Amesbury has in the areas of English Language Learners and English as a Second Language. She explained that even though we only have a few of students needing these services, the state expects the school departments to train all teachers ELL and ESL. The teacher training is very costly and takes a teacher out of their classroom for 15 days. The cost of this mandate would be between \$300K and \$400K, with no funding from the state or the federal government. Mr. Jack explained that this is a budget dilemma with no current solution.

III. COMMENTS BY VISITORS, DELEGATIONS

None.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. Superintendent’s Report

The superintendent that Amesbury Academy was in the process of moving from Water Street to their new location at All Saints Church. He stated that he had enjoyed all of the concerts and events throughout the holiday season and he wished everyone “Happy Holidays”. Ms. Schultz stated that she would have liked to attend some events that she had no knowledge about. Mr. Jack said he would speak to the principals and let them know.

ITEMS FOR APPROVAL OR EARLY CONSIDERATION

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Tom McGee, seconded by Debra LaValley Bibeau to approve the school committee minutes dated December 7, 2010. Vote: 4, Yes 2 Abstain (Hanshaw and Kezer) Student Rep., Yes.

B. BUSINESS

**1. 1st Reading Policy DK Invoice and Payroll Approval
1st Reading Policy DK-R Invoice & Payroll Approval
Operating Budget Process**

Gale Hanshaw identified suggested changes to these two policies. They will be added to the next school committee agenda for a 2nd reading.

C. WARRANT

Motion by Gale Hanshaw, seconded by Debra LaValley Bibeau to approve the warrant dated December 30, 2010 in the amount of \$140,858.00. Unanimous, Yes.

Motion by Debra LaValley Bibeau, seconded by Tom McGee to approve the warrant dated December 16, 2010 in the amount of \$418,788.15. Vote: 5 Yes, 1 Abstain (Hanshaw).

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. Subcommittee Reports

- 1. Budget/Finance Subcommittee**
Ms. LaValley Bibeau stated that there will be a Finance Meeting of the whole committee prior to the next school committee meeting on January 4, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.
- 2. Policy Subcommittee**
Ms. Hanshaw stated that the subcommittee continues to go through the policy manual and the next meeting is scheduled for January 13, 2011 at 4 p.m. in the Superintendent's office.
- 3. Personnel Subcommittee**
Mr. McGee reported that the subcommittee had met prior to this school committee meeting. There was discussion around retirements for this year and the years to come.

COMMUNICATIONS

- 1. Student Advisory Council**
Ms. Ouellet stated that the council had their meeting with Mr. Kish of Chartwell's Dining Services. Mr. Kish wanted to know what kinds of food the students would like him to bring in. He said that he would bring in samples of foods and get responses from the students. SAC is meeting 12/22 to plan the Frost Fest and they are excited about this great week of activities they are planning.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Date for Goals Review (2/15/11)
2. Follow-up Meeting with Amesbury Academy (1/4/11)
3. Full Committee for Finance Meeting (6:00 p.m. 1/4/11)
4. Recognition of Recipient of "Excellence in Foreign Language" (1/18/11)
5. Parent Portal in X2 – Anne Verret-Speck (2/1/11)
6. School Calendar 2011-2012 (1/18/11)

Motion by Bonnie Schultz, seconded by Tom McGee to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Unanimous, Yes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tom McGee, Secretary

Amesbury Public Schools Mission Statement

The Amesbury School District is unconditionally committed to every child, ensuring that all students experience success through the development of attitudes and skills necessary for lifelong learning by providing the highest quality staff, meaningful learning experiences, and a vitally involved community.