

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
AMESBURY MIDDLE SCHOOL  
MAY 5, 2009**

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Present at 7:00 p.m. were Thatcher Kezer, Chair, Stanley Schwartz, Debra Bibeau, Bonnie Schultz, Gale Hanshaw, Tom McGee, Charles Chaurette, Superintendent of Schools and Mike Bruno, SAC Representative.

The Chair called the meeting to order. Gale Hanshaw led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. PRESENTATIONS**

**A. Interview: Michael Bergeron, candidate for Business Administrator**

Dr. Chaurette introduced Michael Bergeron as the candidate for the position of Business Administrator that will be vacant when David Jack moves into the position of Superintendent. There was a question and answer session between the school committee members and Mr. Bergeron.

*Motion by Tom McGee, seconded by Debra Bibeau to take business item #1 out of order. Unanimous, Yes, Student Rep., Yes.*

*Motion by Stanley Schwartz, seconded by Debra Bibeau to accept the recommendation of the superintendent of schools to appoint Michael Bergeron to the position of Business Administrator for the Amesbury Public Schools. Unanimous, Yes., Student Rep., Yes.*

- Dr. Chaurette congratulated and thanked the search committee for the stellar job they did in choosing highly qualified individuals to be interviewed. The members of the committee were:

Walter Helliesen, Facilitator and AES Principal  
Brad Ford, Director of Operations  
Joy Berube, Finance Manager  
Stanley Schwartz, School Committee Vice Chair  
Mike Basque, Town CFO  
Allen Neale, Town Municipal Council Member  
Billy McLane, AES Teacher  
Kathy Randall, AMS Teacher  
Cindy Yetman, AHS Teacher & AFT President  
Lane Glenn, Parent/Community  
Joan Miller, Parent/Community

Ms. Bibeau, as a point of order, recused herself from the upcoming Early College Program presentation as she is an employee of Northern Essex Community College.

**B. Early College Program at Amesbury High School**

Les Murray, Principal and MaryBeth Exner, Director of Guidance gave a Powerpoint presentation on the proposed Early College Program, a partnership involving AHS and Northern Essex Community College. As part of the presentation, the history of early college was reviewed. Sue Grolnick, Dean and Lane Glenn, VP of Academic Affairs at NECCO were also in attendance.

Dual enrollment with NECCO began in 1993 and a partnership was established in 1995. In 1999 video conferencing between the high school and NECCO was followed by online college courses in 2003. It is the desire of the high school and NECCO to launch an Early College Program in the fall of 2009 that would let sophomores begin to take college classes as well as juniors and seniors. The program would begin as a pilot program with the hope of expanding it to grades 11-12 over the next three years. For students who take NECCO courses, the grades would be weighted. A teacher from AHS will partner with a teacher at NECCO. There are professional development courses planned regarding this partnering in the upcoming spring and the summer.

*Motion by Gale Hanshaw, seconded by Stanley Schwartz to take the vote on the Early College Program out of order. Unanimous, Yes, Student Rep., Yes.*

*Motion by Tom McGee, seconded by Gale Hanshaw to participate in the Early College Program with Northern Essex Community College. Unanimous, Yes, Student Rep., Yes.*

**3. COMMENTS BY VISITORS, DELEGATIONS**

- Gail Brown, parent and member of AES School Council, read aloud the letter that the AES School Council wrote to share their support of the proposed Professional Release Time Days for the 09-10 school year.

**4. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

**A. Curriculum Director's Report**

1. Technology Plan

Telena Imel, Curriculum Director, introduced the technology team for the Amesbury Public Schools:

Cindy Yetman, AHS Director of Technology  
 Joe Stanley, AHS Technology Teacher  
 Jim Queenan, AMS Technology Teacher  
 Stanley Froncki, AMS Technology Teacher  
 Leslie Barnaby, CES Technology Teacher  
 Bruce McBrien, AES Technology Teacher

Anne Verret-Speck, MIS Director, Town/School

- Martine Fabre, Network Manager/Technical Coordinator
- Susan Lang, Technology Technician, AHS
- Kathy Fowler, Technology Technician, CES

Each school shared the technology the students are learning in their schools and how this information meets the needs of the 3-year Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's Technology Plan. Each school will be teaching parents how to access their child/children(s) accomplishments on the work they are completing in the classroom. Teachers are also being taught how to use the technology available to them more effectively.

Mrs. Yetman explained that the schools are required to do a district profile update to the DESE online. In addition, they have to show that we have aligned the curriculum with the state frameworks, have an acceptable use policy and do a system-wide software inventory.

*Motion by Bonnie Schultz, seconded by Tom McGee to suspend the rules so the committee can vote after 9:00 p.m. Unanimous, Yes, Student Rep., Yes.*

*Motion by Bonnie Schultz, seconded by Gale Hanshaw to take the Technology Plan out of order. Unanimous, Yes, Student Rep., Yes.*

*Motion by Bonnie Schultz, seconded by Gale Hanshaw to accept the updated Amesbury Public Schools' Technology Plan. Unanimous, Yes, Student Rep., Yes.*

**B. Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Chaurette announced the recipients of the Excellence in Education Award: Carol Bartlett, Patricia Dupere, Kathy Fowler, Stanley Froncki, Edna Jarman, Lisa LaVerde, Deborah Murphy, Catherine Patten, Ronald Pressler, Joelyn Pray and Priscilla Terry.

Duck Stamp Award Winners: Jennah Manchester, Matthew Clifford, Taylor Jackson, Corey Kotfila, Brandon Merrill, Spencer Moawenzadah, Connor Runde, Emily Hanshaw, Anthony LeVasseur, Matthew McCready and Delane Zahoruiko.

Congratulations to the production of "Little Shop of Horrors" at AHS, the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade band performance, the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade band performance, the CES musical drama production this upcoming weekend at AHS and the AHS Math Team for another 1<sup>st</sup> place victory. The high school prom will take place on Friday night.

### Professional Release Time Days

Dr. Chaurette explained the process used for obtaining feedback on the concept of adding five early release days to the school calendar for professional development, etc. Ms. Schultz expressed concern for taking learning time away from the students.

At 9:35 p.m. there was a brief recess requested by the cable TV technician.

Discussion continued regarding the positive feedback that Dr. Chaurette received from a joint meeting of the school councils. An explanation of the process was included in the school committee packet.

Ms. Bibeau also expressed her concern regarding teacher professional development time. She stated that in the private sector, employees are expected to do professional development on their own time. Dr. Chaurette explained that the school department is required to give teachers time for professional development under the union contract and that most teachers work well beyond the contractual mandates of the collective bargaining agreement.

Mr. Schwartz, Ms. Hanshaw, Mr. McGee and Mayor Kezer all spoke in favor of adding professional release time days to the 09-10 school year calendar. Mayor Kezer stated that this item would be voted on during the business section of the agenda.

## **ITEMS FOR APPROVAL OR EARLY CONSIDERATION**

### **A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*Motion by Gale Hanshaw, seconded by Tom McGee to approve the regular minutes dated April 8, 2009. Unanimous, Yes, Student Rep., Yes.*

### **B. BUSINESS**

#### 1. Professional Release Time Days

*Motion by Gale Hanshaw, seconded by Stanley Schwartz to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to add 5 Professional Release Time Days to the 09-10 school calendar. Vote: 5, Yes; Opposed, 1 (Bibeau), Student Rep., Yes.*

#### 2. Choice

After examination of the projected enrollments at all levels, Dr. Chaurette's recommendation is to open Amesbury to Choice in grades 2 and 5-12.

*Motion by Bonnie Schultz, seconded by Debra Bibeau to accept the recommendation of the superintendent and open Amesbury to Choice in grades 2 and 5-12. Unanimous, Yes, Student Rep., Yes.*

3. Quarterly Report  
The budget/finance subcommittee approved the quarterly report at their last meeting.

*Motion by Stanley Schwartz, seconded by Debra Bibeau to accept the quarterly report as presented. Unanimous, Yes.*

4. Transfers  
The budget/finance subcommittee approved the quarterly report at their last meeting.

*Motion by Debra Bibeau, seconded by Gale Hanshaw to approve the budget transfers as presented. Unanimous, Yes.*

5. 1<sup>st</sup> Reading JJIB Athletic Participation Policy  
Ms. Hanshaw gave an overview of the policy changes and asked that any questions be directed to her prior to the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading on May 19<sup>th</sup>.

## C. WARRANT

*Motion by Debra Bibeau, seconded by Tom McGee, to approve the warrant dated 4/23/09 in the amount of \$352,467.18. Unanimous, Yes.*

*Motion by Debra Bibeau, seconded by Stanley Schwartz, to approve the warrant dated 5/7/09 in the amount of \$202,353.50. Unanimous, Yes.*

## INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

### A. Subcommittee Reports

#### 1. **Budget/Finance Subcommittee**

Ms. Bibeau reported that at the 6:00 p.m. meeting, the subcommittee spoke with the Youth Basketball League regarding a possible location for an outdoor court.

Telena Imel shared the minutes from a committee assembled to discuss how to best use the Title I stimulus funds.

#### 2. **Policy Subcommittee**

Will meet on Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m.

#### 3. **Personnel Subcommittee**

No report.

**4. Student Advisory Council**

Mike Bruno stated that SAC has decided to take the idea put forth by Ms. Schultz at the last school committee meeting and put teams together to go to the middle school and talk to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students about getting involved in co-curricular activities when they enter 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

**5. High School Building Committee**

Mr. McGee reported that he has been meeting with Anne Ferguson to discuss plans to renovate the high school courtyard. The next meeting is scheduled for May 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 a.m. in the Student Activities Room at AHS.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

- Congratulations to Mike Bruno as the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest senior scorer on the Math Team.
- Amesbury Little League opening day ceremonies were a success. The Little League dedicated the field in the name of Joe Packer.
- The Day on the Hill is Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup>.
- The promenade of those students attending the prom will take place on Friday at 4:00 p.m. at the Amesbury Public Library.
- Congratulations to those individuals who were recipients of the Excellence in Education awards.
- The Mayor reported that his budget has gone to the printer. It is \$11,000 less than last year's budget. The Finance Committee will meet with the School Committee regarding the school budget on May 14<sup>th</sup>.
- AEFI Hall of Honor takes place on May 16<sup>th</sup>.
- The AHS football team will be honored at the State House on Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> for their Superbowl Championship.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

1. AHS Football Team Reception  
·Ms. Bibeau reported that the ring ceremony will take place toward the end of May
2. Amesbury's Whittier School Board Representatives (5/19/09)
3. Science Curriculum & Textbook Updates (5/19/09)
4. Summer Reading List Presentation (6/2/09)
5. Retiree Reception (6/2/09)

***Motion by Debra Bibeau, seconded by Gale Hanshaw to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 p.m., Unanimous, Yes, Student Rep., Yes.***

Respectfully Submitted,

Tom McGee, Secretary