

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
AMESBURY HIGH SCHOOL  
JANUARY 4, 2011**

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

The Chair called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. McGee.

**ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

**A. School Committee Reorganization**

1. Election of Vice-Chair and Secretary

The Chair asked for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair.

*Motion by Stanley Schwartz, seconded by Bonnie Schultz to nominate Debra LaValley Bibeau as the Vice-Chair of the Amesbury School Committee. Unanimous, Yes. Student Rep., Yes.*

The Chair asked for nominations for the position of Secretary.

*Motion by Debra LaValley Bibeau, seconded by Bonnie Schultz to nominate Tom McGee as the Secretary of the Amesbury School Committee. Unanimous, Yes. Student Rep., Yes.*

2. Adopt Rules and Regulations for Conduct

*Motion by Tom McGee, seconded by Bonnie Schultz to adopt the Rules and Regulations for Conduct of the Amesbury School Committee. Unanimous, Yes. Student Rep., Yes.*

3. Meeting Days and Times

*Motion by Bonnie Schultz, seconded by Debra LaValley Bibeau to continue with the current days and times of the Amesbury School Committee meetings. Unanimous, Yes. Student Rep., Yes.*

4. Subcommittee Appointments and Assignments

The Chair handed out a list of proposed active subcommittee assignments. He proceeded to read the following assignments aloud:

Budget/Finance	LaValley Bibeau (Chair), Schwartz, Hanshaw
Policy Review	Hanshaw (Chair), Connolly King, Schultz
Personnel	Schwartz (Chair), King, McGee
SPED PAC Liaison	Schwartz

Other:

Athletic/MIAA Liaison	LaValley Bibeau
Legislative Liaison	King (changed from LaValley Bibeau)
Parliamentarian	McGee (changed from Hanshaw)
AHS Handbook Liaison	Hanshaw

***Motion by Stanley Schwartz, seconded by Debra LaValley Bibeau to accept the list of Active Subcommittee Assignments as proposed. Unanimous, Yes. Student Rep., Yes.***

Ms. LaValley Bibeau stated that she would like to discuss the committee's agenda format when the committee meets on February 15<sup>th</sup> to review their goals.

Organizational Meeting concluded at 7:10 p.m.

## **REGULAR MEETING**

The regular meeting came to order at 7:11 p.m.

### **II. PRESENTATIONS**

#### **1. Follow-up Meeting with Amesbury Academy**

Mr. Jack introduced the President of the Academy Board of Directors, Ms. Patricia Reblin. Ms. Reblin asked the members of the board to stand and introduce themselves. Ms. Reblin handed out a report to the school committee that highlights the Academy's accomplishments from July to December of 2010 and future accomplishments from January to June of 2011.

Ms. Georges, Academy Principal, spoke about the six projects that the students at the Academy are currently working on. She thanked the superintendent, board members, staff and students for all of their help in moving the Academy from their facility on Water Street to a new facility at 67 Friend Street.

January 31<sup>st</sup> is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the renovated school building that the Academy is now renting. The Academy will hold an Open House on that same day to show the new school facility as well as celebrate the longevity of the facility.

### **III. COMMENTS BY VISITORS, DELEGATIONS**

None.

### **IV. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

#### **A. Business Administrator's Report**

Mr. Bergeron reviewed the upcoming budget process for the FY12 budget beginning with meetings with cost center managers.

The school committee will have the budget by February 1<sup>st</sup>.

The quarterly report will be included in the next school committee packet and will need approval at the next school committee meeting. He also addressed the deficit. Ms. Connolly King asked that the budget workshops be open to the full committee so that any committee member may attend and comment at the meetings. Mr. Schwartz asked about the status of the RTTT funds. Mr. Bergeron stated that the revenue will be \$170,000 over four years and will be used mainly for curriculum for the common core standards.

**B. Superintendent's Report**

Since the proposed school calendars were included in the school committee packets for a vote at the next committee meeting, Ms. Schultz asked if the school department could do another survey regarding the before/after Labor Day start to the next school year. The committee asked if the calendar could show two years at a time. There was a question regarding how many school days there needed to be between the date that seniors graduate and the last day of school. The half day/full day before Thanksgiving was a concern. Mr. Jack told the committee that he would research area schools and ask how they handle that day. He stated that he would look into their concerns and get back to them with two new drafts of the school calendar showing two years out instead of just one.

The superintendent announced that he plans to retire on June 30<sup>th</sup> of this year. He explained that he had been thinking about this for a long time and this decision was made for purely personal reasons. The committee will discuss this further at the executive session following this meeting.

**ITEMS FOR APPROVAL OR EARLY CONSIDERATION**

**A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*Motion by Debra LaValley Bibeau, seconded by Tom McGee to approve the school committee minutes dated December 21, 2010. Unanimous, Yes, Student Rep., Yes.*

**B. BUSINESS**

**1. 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Policy DK Invoice and Payroll Approval**

*Motion by Bonnie Schultz, seconded by Stanley Schwartz to approve Policy DK Invoice and Payroll Approval. Unanimous, Yes, Student Rep., Yes.*

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Policy DK-R Invoice & Payroll Approval Operating Budget Process**

***Motion by Bonnie Schultz, seconded by Tom McGee to approve Policy DK Invoice and Payroll Approval. Unanimous, Yes, Student Rep., Yes.***

The superintendent addressed an issue that was not included on this meeting's agenda. The Statement of Interest on the possible renovation of the Amesbury Elementary School that was originally submitted to the SBA, needed a few edits and another vote of approval from the full committee as well as the Municipal Council. The Chair read the statement to be resubmitted aloud. Mr. Bergeron stated that he would send the committee an electronic version of the statement when it was ready for submission.

***Motion by Debra LaValley Bibeau, seconded by Tom McGee to approve the changes to and the resubmission of the Statement of Interest on the Amesbury Elementary School to the SBA. Unanimous, Yes, Student Rep., Yes.***

- C. WARRANT**  
No warrant to approve.

### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

**A. Subcommittee Reports**

**1. Budget/Finance Subcommittee**

Ms. LaValley Bibeau stated that the school committee met as a whole to discuss the Memorandum of Understanding with the Amesbury Academy. Mr. Jack stated that the new MOU contained much more detail than the previous MOU. There are some edits and the Academy board will be asked for input. Ms. LaValley Bibeau stated that Mr. Bergeron did an excellent job on updating the Memorandum and created a useful tool for the school committee to refer to regarding business with the Academy. There will be a printed quarterly report for the next school committee meeting for the committee to vote on.

All budget workshops will be posted as full committee finance meetings so that all members may participate. Ms. Connolly King thanked Ms. LaValley Bibeau for opening up the budget/finance meeting prior to the school committee so that all members could discuss the MOU.

**2. Policy Subcommittee**

Ms. Schultz stated that the next meeting is scheduled for January 13, 2011 at 4 p.m. in the Superintendent's office.

**3. Personnel Subcommittee**

Mr. Schwartz stated that the subcommittee will meet prior to the next school committee meeting.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

### **1. Student Advisory Council**

Ms. Ouellet stated that the council would be meeting next Thursday. They will be discussing the drafts of the school calendar and they will ask students for their opinions on having a full day off on the day before Thanksgiving.

Ms. Connolly King announced that she would be unable to attend the next school committee meeting on January 18<sup>th</sup>.

## **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Date for Goals Review (2/15/11)
2. Recognition of Recipient of "Excellence in Foreign Language" (1/18/11)
3. Parent Portal in X2 – Anne Verret-Speck (2/1/11)
4. School Calendar 2011-2012 (1/18/11)
5. Principal and Superintendent's Awards (2/1/11)

The Chair announced that the school committee would be going into executive session to discuss negotiations as well as a personnel issue and that the committee would not reconvene in regular session but will adjourn from executive session.

***ROLL CALL VOTE at 8:16 p.m.: Kezer, Yes; LaValley Bibeau, Yes; Schwartz, Yes; Schultz, Yes; McGee, Yes; Connolly King, 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.***