

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
AMESBURY HIGH SCHOOL  
Recorded - JANUARY 5, 2010 – as Amended 1/19/10**

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Present at 7:00 p.m. were Thatcher Kezer, Chair, Tom McGee, Gale Hanshaw, Bonnie Schultz, Debra Bibeau, Stanley Schwartz, David Jack, Superintendent of Schools, Ann Connolly King and Emily Noonan, SAC Representative.

**1. ORGANIZATION MEETING**

The Chair called the meeting to order. Paula Blair led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Kezer welcomed Ann Connolly King.

**A. School Committee Reorganization**

1. Election of Vice-Chair and Secretary

The Chair opened the floor to nominations for Vice Chair.

*Motion by Stanley Schwartz, seconded by Bonnie Schultz, to elect Debra Bibeau as the Vice Chair of the School Committee.*

As there were no other nominations, the chair closed nominations for the vice chair.

*Vote for Debra Bibeau for Vice Chair was Unanimous, Student Rep, Yes*

The Chair opened the floor to nominations for Secretary.

*Motion by Bonnie Schultz, seconded by Debra Bibeau, to re-elect Tom McGee as the Secretary of the School Committee.*

As there were no other nominations, the chair closed nominations for the secretary.

*Vote for Tom McGee for Secretary was Unanimous, Student Rep, Yes*

2. Adopt Rules and Regulations for Conduct

*Motion by Debra Bibeau, seconded by Stan Schwartz, to adopt the Rules and Regulations for Conduct. Unanimous, Yes, Student Rep, Yes.*

3. Meeting Days and Times

*Motion by Stan Schwartz seconded by Gale Hanshaw, to approve the meeting dates and times. Unanimous, Yes, Student Rep, Yes.*

#### 4. Subcommittee Appointments:

Thatcher Kezer presented the committee with the following proposed assignments for the following subcommittees:

Personnel Subcommittee: *Schwartz, Chair, Connolly-King, McGee*  
 Budget/Finance Subcommittee: *Bibeau, Chair, Schwartz, Hanshaw*  
 Policy Subcommittee: *Hanshaw, Chair, Connolly-King, Schultz*  
 SPED PAC Liaison: *Bonnie Schultz*  
 Other Appointments:  
 Athletic Liaison: *Debra Bibeau*  
 Legislative Liaison: *Debra Bibeau*  
 Parliamentarian: *Gale Hanshaw*  
 High School Building Committee Liaison: *Tom McGee*  
 High School Handbook Liaison: *Gale Hanshaw*

Mayor Kezer asked the committee if they were open to trading or switching any of the assignments proposed. With everyone satisfied a vote was taken.

*Motion by Stan Schwartz, seconded by Bonnie Schultz, to approve the above proposed assignments for the subcommittees. Unanimous, Yes, Student Rep, Yes*

## **REGULAR MEETING**

### **1. PRESENTATIONS**

Thatcher Kezer recognized Paula Blair for her 4 years of duty as a School Committee Member. He thanked Paula for stepping up to the plate and taking on the task of serving on the committee. He went on to state that the school budget controls half of the Amesbury budget and that it is a big assignment to volunteer your time. The committee presented Paula with a rocking chair and plaques as a token of their appreciation.

Paula thanked all of the committee members and acknowledged Theresa Axten for talking her into running for school committee. Paula spoke about the wonderful job that the committee does. She stated that they all have the best interest of the students at all times.

### **2. COMMENTS OF VISITORS, DELEGATIONS**

None

### **3. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

#### **A. Curriculum Director's Report**

##### **1. New Website Update**

Dave Jack thanked Kathy Fowler, Ann Verret-Speck and Telena Imel for all of the work that they did on adopting the new web site.

Telena Imel updated the committee on the new town website that went live January 1<sup>st</sup>. The process of choosing this vendor began one year ago.

Kathy Fowler created a check list and looked over 25 vendors. After narrowing it down to two vendors Kathy worked with mock websites and in the end chose *School World* to be our vendor.

Ms. Imel spoke about the three features that helped them choose School World. The ease of use; it is a tool that will grow with us and a site that would serve all the information that we need to add to it. She went on to explain about the great tool for parents to see what is happening in the classroom.

Telena thanked Kathy Fowler and Anne Verret-Speck for all of their hard work on getting this website up and live for this new year.

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

### **1. Quarterly Report Update**

Mike Bergeron presented the committee with a copy of the quarterly financial report as of January 5, 2010. Mr. Bergeron pointed out some items on the report. The South Hampton tuition is 15% higher than what was budgeted. He also stated that the out-of-district tuition is overspent from what was encumbered because of the increase in students that have moved into Amesbury. He recognized the soft-freeze, that was done in October on the budget, will help to overcome some of the short fall on the budget.

## **C. Superintendent's Report**

### **1. School Choice:**

David Jack presented the committee with a Power Point presentation on how school choice, in Amesbury, has stabilized. Mr. Jack went on to show how in the past five years, the number of choice-in students was about the same; whereas choice-out students showed a significant drop. He credits that change to the new facility at the High School and parents are satisfied with education here in Amesbury.

### **2. Other:**

Mr. Jack noted that all schools, in Amesbury, will soon see police officers visiting during their beat. He added that this was discussed during the Crisis Management Team meeting so that they have a better idea of the layout of each school. He thanked the chief for allowing this opportunity.

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

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

- Mrs. Bibeau noted that the 12/2/09 minutes were not amended as stated in the 12-15-09 meeting.
- Mrs. Schultz noted that on page #2544 the word assistant was misspelled.

***Motion by Deb Bibeau, seconded by Tom McGee, to approve the regular minutes dated December 15, 2009, as amended. Vote 6 Yes, 1 abstain (King), Student Rep., Yes.***

## **B. BUSINESS**

### **1. Approval of FY11 School Calendar**

The FY11 School Calendar was presented by Dave Jack. Mr. Jack noted that this calendar reflected a *before* Labor Day opening.

After much discussion, the calendar was not voted on. School Committee members would like to hear feedback on the Professional Release Time; i.e. what the attendance was (staff and students), how did the parent conferences go in November, and how lunches were affected. They would also like to have the school calendar reflect an after Labor Day start. They noted that a parent survey was done last year and families want an after Labor Day start. The calendar will be redone.

### **2. Acceptance of anonymous \$2,000 donation for Therapeutic Horseback Riding Program at Windrush Farm**

*Motion by Deb Bibeau, seconded by Stan Schwartz, to accept the \$2,000.00 donation for the APS therapeutic horseback riding program. Unanimous, Yes, 1, Student Rep., Yes.*

Dave Jack will send a thank you to the donor.

### **3. 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Policy BBFA – School Committee Member Conflict of Interest**

*Motion by Gale Hanshaw, seconded by Tom McGee, to accept the change in the BBFA policy. Unanimous, Yes, 1, Student Rep., Yes.*

### **4. 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Policy GBEC – Staff Gifts and Solicitations**

*Motion by Gale Hanshaw, seconded by Tom McGee, to accept the change in the GBEC policy. Unanimous, Yes, , Student Rep., Yes.*

## **C. WARRANT**

*Motion by Gale Hanshaw, seconded by Bonnie Schultz, to accept the January 14, 2010 warrant in the amount of \$228,552.77. Unanimous, Yes, 1, Student Rep., Yes.*

## **6. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

### **A. Subcommittee Reports**

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

Deb Bibeau stated that they met before this meeting. She noted that the cleaning contract will be discussed at the January 25, 2010 meeting. Also the transportation contract will also be reviewed in February. A 2% increase in Pre-K tuition (\$245.00 from \$240.00) was presented for the 2010-2011 school year.

*Motion by Deb Bibeau, seconded by Bonnie Schultz, to increase the PreK tuition for the 2010-2011 school year to \$245.00. Unanimous, Yes, 1, Student Rep., Yes.*

2. **Policy Subcommittee**

Have not met, will set up a meeting with new members.

3. **Personnel Subcommittee**

Will set up a meeting with new members before next school committee meeting.

4. **Student Advisory Council**

Emily Noonan, who was present in Ms. Havey's absence, stated that the *Frost Fest* is set for the week of February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

5. **High School Building Committee**

Tom McGee is waiting to set another meeting date.

B. **COMMUNICATIONS**

Deb Bibeau spoke about the *Race to the Top* monies. She stated that the School Committee Chair, Union President and Superintendent would have to all sign before January 13, 2010, to be considered. There will be an informational meeting at Worcester State on Wednesday, January 6, 2010, that many will be attending to get more information. One of the concerns talked about was if one partner withdraws from the application, will that be it for all.

- A special school committee meeting was set for *Monday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.*, location TBD, to get more information about the grant.

7. **FUTURE MEETINGS AND AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Principal and Superintendent's Award
2. School Committee Open House at AHS – tentative 01/10/10
3. Reception for Amesbury High School Renovation - TBD

8. **PRESS CONFERENCE**

None

9. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None

*Motion by Deb Bibeau, seconded by Bonnie Schultz, to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m. Unanimous, Yes, Student Rep., 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.*