

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
AMESBURY HIGH SCHOOL  
Recorded - DECEMBER 15, 2009 – as Amended 1/5/10**

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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 and Chanelle Havey, SAC Representative. Absent: Paula Blair

The Chair called the meeting to order. Bonnie Schultz led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **2. PRESENTATIONS**

### **A. Student Advisory Council Discussion with School Committee**

The Student Advisory Council was present discussing areas of concern.

- First they all introduced themselves and stated what grade they were in.
- Chanelle Havey, SAC Representative, discussed with the committee that all of the schools had different policies regarding electronic devices. She stated that MP3 players and iPods were allowed at the high school and that cell phones could be on during lunch but not used.
- Discussion about having an Open House for alumni during a Friday night basketball game. Dates in January were given depending on the sports schedule.
- Steve Hanshaw, Vice President of SAC, spoke about the problems with the NutriKid payment plan at the high school, that the lines were too long and the students did not have time to eat their meals. Discussion about the issue was made. Mr. Jack will speak to Mr. Kish, Food Service Director, about the problems at the high school. SAC will encourage students to use the pre-pay which will make the lines move quicker.

### **B. Solar Panel Grant for AHS – Kendra Amaral, Mayors Office**

Kendra Amaral, Chief of Staff for the Mayor, made a presentation to the committee regarding a Solar Block Grant application that has been submitted. If awarded, a solar panel array would be placed on the cafeteria roof at the high school. A decision will be made in mid February whether or not the grant would be awarded to APS. Ms. Amaral stated that if this grant comes thru, it could be joined with other grants to go 'Green'. A vote was needed by the School Committee to get the solar panels if awarded.

*Motion by Stan Schwartz, seconded by Deb Bibeau, to receive the solar panels if the grant was awarded to APS. Unanimous, Yes, Student rep, Yes.*

### **C. Energy audit Walkthrough and Reports – Michael Bergeron**

Michael Bergeron, Business Administrator, presented the committee with a power point regarding the initial findings and recommendation of his energy audit of the schools. The focus of his study was categorized in three areas:

1. Data Management (collecting and analysis of the data);
2. Supply Side Management (who are the suppliers and what rates are they offering);
3. Demand Side Management (our daily use and how effective is it to the budget).

Mr. Bergeron concluded his report stating the importance of all staff in the APS to work together to save energy. He feels that with everyone working together, there would be a 3-5% savings.

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

- Greg Noyes spoke regarding MCAS math scores at the elementary school. He would like to see Ms. Leary, K-12 Math Director, analyze why Amesbury Elementary School MCAS math scores are so low and bring her finding back to the committee. Mr. Noyes also stated that he appreciated the Energy and Solar panel reports made by Kendra and Mike but would like to see it in context.

### **4. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

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

##### **1. EPIMS Summary – Telena Imel**

Telena Imel updated the Committee with a power point presentation about the EPIMS report for the state that replaces the DSSR report. This report is a snapshot of the October 1<sup>st</sup> report on all the staff in the school system except for the cafeteria workers, bus drivers, maintenance and custodian. She went on to state that all teachers must be licensed for the position that they were hired to teach.

#### **B. Superintendent's Report**

##### **1. Race to the Top Funding Update**

Mr. Jack updated the committee on the latest status of the RTTT Funding. He stated that the timeline of January 13<sup>th</sup> is very tight for signatures needed by the union, mayor and superintendent. There are pieces of this funding that are advantages to Amesbury depending on the requirements that would be set. Information is slow coming and not clear. He will continue to monitor the information and keep the committee informed.

##### **2. Other**

Mr. Jack spoke about the MCAS & Growth model. Since the AES and AMS were identified as schools needing improvement, the Department of Education will help to put them in place to move forward with their scores. The administrators will be offered some training for this in mid January.

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

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

- Mayor Kezer corrected the minutes under the student advisory council that students aren't paying ahead and are not using the pre-pay system
- Mrs. Bibeau corrected the spelling of Tia Costello, US Census Bureau.
- Ms. Havey corrected the spelling of Rebecca Crochiere.

*Motion by Gale Hanshaw, seconded by Bonnie Schultz to approve the regular minutes, as amended, dated December 2, 2009. Unanimous, Yes, student Rep., Yes.*

## **B. BUSINESS**

### **1. 1<sup>st</sup> Reading Policy BBFA – School Committee Member conflict of Interest**

- Added to this policy is the *Mandatory Online Training* which needs to be completed by April 2010.

### **2. 1<sup>st</sup> Reading Policy GBEB – Staff gifts and Solicitations**

- Discussion was made by Gale Hanshaw regarding this policy. Added to this policy, from the State Ethics Law, is the increase in penalty if staff accept gifts over \$50.00.

## **C. WARRANT**

*Motion by Deb Bibeau, seconded by Stan Schwartz, to approve the warrant dated, December 12, 2009 in the amount of \$337,228.08. Vote 5 Yes, 1 Abstain (McGee), Student Rep., Yes.*

*Motion by Stanley Schwartz, seconded by Bonnie Schultz to suspend the rules so that the school committee may take a vote after 9:00 p.m. Unanimous, Yes, 1, Student Rep., Yes.*

## **6. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

### **A. Subcommittee Reports**

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

Next Meeting January 5, 2010

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

This subcommittee will be meeting first of the year.

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

Bonnie Schultz reported that their meeting was prior to this meeting. They discussed personnel update and met with Kathy Glennon regarding speech pathologist assistant. She stated that Wayne Adams is retiring and they are in search of a Science Teacher and K-12 Science Director. Nurses' job description will be the focus at their Jan 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### **4. Student Advisory Council**

Next meeting January 4, 2010.

#### **5. High School Building Committee**

Mr. McGee stated that he spoke with Lee LeBlanc about the missing plaques and they are not sure where they are located. He stated that with a few lingering items left to do, he is looking at January or February to close out this committee and get an acceptance.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

- Mr. Schwartz noted that this would have been Paula Blair's last meeting after 4 years of serving on the School Committee. He wished her well and hoped that she will be able to join them at the January meeting to give her due respect for her services.
- Michael Bergeron spoke about the pre-pay for lunch can also be done by check and/or cash and use the 'fast lane'. Checks should be made out to the Amesbury School Lunch Program. He stated that more information and a quick link will be available on the new web site in January.

## **7. FUTURE MEETINGS AND AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Reception for Amesbury High School Renovation – no date
2. School Committee Open House at AHS – tentative 01/10/10
3. New School Calendar 01/05/10

## **8. PRESS CONFERENCE**

None

## **9. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None

*Motion by Bonnie Schultz, seconded by Tom McGee, to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 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.*