

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
AMESBURY MIDDLE SCHOOL
MARCH 17, 2009**

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

The Chair called the meeting to order. Mike Bruno led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. PRESENTATIONS

A. BUDGET HEARING

The Chair thanked the Municipal Councilors, administrators and residents who were present for the budget hearing. He then turned the gavel over to Debra Bibeau, Chair of the Budget/Finance Subcommittee. Ms. Bibeau introduced Dr. Chaurette who gave a PowerPoint presentation outlining the complete budget process including sources of revenue and proposed reductions to get to a level funded budget.

Ms. Bibeau read Policy BDDH-E Guidelines for Participation at School Committee Meetings and opened the budget hearing at 7:30 p.m.

Mayor Kezer gave an overview of the budget issues on the town side of the government of Amesbury. He stated that the Mayor and the Municipal Council are not depending on the stimulus package because it will have restrictions and it has a short time frame. What the town is faced with right now is that as FY10 begins, the town is \$900,000 short in revenue.

- Councilor Sherwood expressed concern with the time frame involved in getting the school department budget in front of the Council.
- Councilor Neale stated that the Commonwealth of MA is another billion dollars short in the state budget.
- Volunteer freshman football coach, Stephen Bibeau, expressed his concern with the school department cutting freshman sports out of the budget for FY10.
- Kyle Mroz, AHS athlete, spoke against the cutting of freshman sports as well as his teammate, Steve Serwon.
- Ann Connolly King, 25 Belmont Street, wanted to know if the Athletic Director, Elizabeth McAndrews, would be able to give some statistics on the numbers of students participating in freshman sports. Ms. McAndrews complied with this request.

- Peter Sydlowski of Winkley Street also shared his displeasure with the cutting of freshman sports for FY10. He further stated that perhaps his league could provide opportunities to play should the program be cut.
- Leo Norton, Bay Street, President of the Athletic Boosters Club, asked the school committee if they could find a different place to cut the budget than freshman athletics. He spoke about the social value of sports on young people.
- Cheryl Comeau, Childs Avenue, teaches girls basketball and asked that the school committee reconsider cutting freshman sports.

Ms. Bibeau thanked all of the people who came to the meeting and stated that the vote on the budget would take place on April 8th. She closed the public hearing at 8:25 p.m. and handed the gavel back to the Mayor.

Motion by Debra Bibeau, seconded by Paula Blair to suspend the rules to vote after 9:00 p.m. Unanimous, Yes, Student Rep., Yes.

3. COMMENTS BY VISITORS, DELEGATIONS

None.

4. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. Curriculum Director's Report

1. Library Media Teachers Presentation

Maureen Hardin, Library Director, introduced the other school librarians, Mia Rowlands (AHS), MaryAnn McGrath (CES), and Kathy Daniels (AES). Maureen used a PowerPoint presentation to explain the librarian's 5-year plan and the goals and objectives of the plan. Mike Bruno, SAC Student Rep., stated that the new high school library offers access to many databases and the increased hours that the library is open to students (7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.) has also helped students meet homework deadlines.

Motion by Debra Bibeau, seconded by Bonnie Schultz to take business item #1 out of order for a vote. Unanimous, Yes, Student Rep., Yes.

Motion by Paula Blair seconded by Bonnie Schultz to approve the FY10 Action Plan put forth by the Amesbury Public Schools' Librarians. Unanimous, Yes, Student Rep., Yes.

Motion by Debra Bibeau, seconded by Tom McGee to take business item #3, High School Diploma for Veteran, out of order. Unanimous, Yes., Student Rep., Yes.

- At this time, Mr. Raymond G. Bolduc was invited to speak on his own behalf regarding his request to receive an Amesbury High School diploma.

Motion by Debra Bibeau, seconded by Stanley Schwartz to award an Amesbury High School diploma to Mr. Raymond G. Bolduc. Unanimous, Yes, Student Rep., Yes.

C. **Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Chaurette told the committee that the discussion of early release days is moving forward. There will be a meeting of all school councils on March 24th at 6:30 p.m. in the high school library.

ITEMS FOR APPROVAL OR EARLY CONSIDERATION

A. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Bonnie Schultz, seconded by Gale Hanshaw to approve the regular minutes dated March 3, 2009. Unanimous, Yes, Student Rep., Yes.

B. **BUSINESS**

2. **New Superintendent's Contract**

Motion by Bonnie Schultz, seconded by Gale Hanshaw to move discussion on the Superintendent's contract to the end of the meeting. Unanimous, Yes, Student Rep., Yes.

4. **2nd Reading Policy IJNDB Technology & Email
Elimination of IJNDB-A**

Motion by Gale Hanshaw, seconded by Tom McGee to approve Policy IJNDB Technology and Email on the 2nd reading. Unanimous, Yes, Student Rep., Yes.

Motion by Stanley Schwartz, seconded by Debra Bibeau to eliminate Policy IJNDB-A. Unanimous, Yes, Student Rep., Yes.

C. **WARRANT**

Motion by Debra Bibeau, seconded by Gale Hanshaw, to approve the warrant dated 3/26/09 in the amount of \$261,793.16. Unanimous, Yes.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. **Subcommittee Reports**

1. **Budget/Finance Subcommittee**

This subcommittee will be meeting prior to the next school committee meeting on April 8th.

At this time the Mayor announced that Ms. Bibeau would be the only school committee member to attend the National School Boards Association conference.

2. **Policy Subcommittee**

This subcommittee will meet on March 18th at 8:00 a.m.

3. **Personnel Subcommittee**

This subcommittee met prior to this school committee meeting. Ms. Schultz reported that they were updated about an IPDP form that will be used by teachers and administrators for updating their licensure. They also discussed the central office reorganization and the timeline for hiring a business administrator. The make up of the search committee was discussed.

4. Student Advisory Council

Mike Bruno stated that the council had discussed a proposal to eliminate A block. There have been two “lock down” practices at the high school.

5. High School Building Committee

Mr. McGee stated that they are continuing to work on the HVAC system.

COMMUNICATIONS

- May 7th Day on the Hill
- On March 28th Division 1 of MASC is sponsoring a meeting to discuss cost saving measures. The meeting will be held in Lowell.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Proposal for Early Release Days
2. AHS Football Team Reception
Ms. Bibeau said that rings had been ordered for the football team and that there will be a ceremony when the rings are ready.
3. FY'10 Budget
4. Amesbury's Whittier School Board Representatives
5. Summer Reading List Presentation (6/2/09)
6. Retiree Reception (6/09)
7. Establish a Steering Committee to look at elementary school reconfiguration
8. Dialogue regarding transitioning the Academy to the high school

At 9:35 p.m. the Chair stated that the committee would need to go into executive session to discuss the new superintendent's contract. The committee will return to open session to finish the meeting's business and adjournment.

Roll Call Vote: McGee, Yes; Hanshaw, Yes; Schultz, Blair, Yes; Bibeau, Yes; Schwartz, Yes; Kezer, Yes.

Return to Open Session at 9:50 p.m. No votes were taken in executive session.

The Chair read aloud the terms of the Superintendent's contract. In general terms it is a 3-year contract beginning on July 1, 2009. In the 3rd year of the contract there will be a provision to extend the contract to a 4th year unless the School Committee ends the contract by October 1, 2011.

Compensation: 1st year \$146,380 with a 2.7% increase for each of the following two years. Second year compensation is \$150,332 (2010) and third year compensation is \$154,392 (2011). No annuity is included in this contract. There is disability insurance in the amount of \$2,400 per year. Annual vacation is 30 days per year with no carry over from year to year, however, the School Committee can allow Mr. Jack to buy back 5 days after the first year and 10 days after the 2nd year, if the budget allows.

Notice of ending the contract must be given by Mr. Jack 120 days in advance for the first two years of the contract. In 2012, the notice of termination must take place prior to June 30th.

Motion by Stanley Schwartz, seconded by Tom McGee to approve the new Superintendent's contract. Unanimous, Yes.

Motion by Bonnie Schultz, seconded by Debra Bibeau to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 p.m., Unanimous, Yes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tom McGee
Secretary