

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
AMESBURY MIDDLE SCHOOL
OCTOBER 20, 2009**

Present at 7:00 p.m. were Thatcher Kezer, Chair, Stanley Schwartz, Debra Bibeau, Paula Blair, Bonnie Schultz, Gale Hanshaw, Tom McGee, David Jack, Superintendent of Schools and Chanelle Havey, SAC Representative.

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

2. PRESENTATIONS

A. Chartwells Point of Sale Program – Michael Bergeron/Kevin Kish

Kevin Kish, Chartwells' Food Service Manager for the Amesbury Public Schools, and Michael Bergeron, Business Administrator, made a presentation to the committee regarding the upcoming Point of Sale program that will be rolled out in November in all of the school lunchrooms. The software is called NutriKids and will allow parents to pre-pay for their child's lunches online using Pay Pal. Each student will be given a unique 5-digit PIN to use to access their account to pay for lunch or a la carte items. Parents will be able to see reports online that include the food selections their child has been making in the lunchroom.

Student data is downloaded from the X2 school web-based data base. The hope is that the anonymity of the program will increase the free and reduced lunch numbers. Initial letters have gone out to parents introducing the upcoming program. Mr. Kish will be meeting with the Student Advisory Council at the high school to discuss the roll out of the program and get the word out to high school students that there is a new program to be executed.

B. Streaming Video/School Committee Meetings Location – Russ Munroe

Russ Munroe, Cable TV/Audio Visual Coordinator, was present to explain a new program that will make taped school department events available for watching on the town/school website. Some of this "streaming video" will be live (School Committee meetings), however, due to the complexity of the process, events and meetings that are video-taped can be accessed for viewing after the taping. This process will allow anyone with access to the Internet to view meetings and events on their computer. This program will help those people who currently do not have access to Channel 18 from their television, they will be able to watch meetings and events, via the Internet, live or taped. The company, Granicus, Inc., will be handling this Internet access and the project is grant funded. Channel 18 will soon become APSTV.org. School committee meetings will be shown live and the committee secretary will be indexing the meeting's agenda during the live broadcast.

Mr. Munroe is hopeful that this programming will be up and running by the first of the new calendar year. There will be a link from the school website to APSTV.org. When the equipment is tested and ready to go “live” there will be a whole roll out of communications for the public, staff and students promoting this new program.

The Mayor asked if this contract with Granicus, Inc. could include the town side, i.e., Municipal Council meetings. Mr. Munroe stated that there would probably need to be a separate contract with the town and Granicus, Inc. in order for Municipal Council meetings to be shown live via the web. Mostly events that happen will be able to be viewed live due to the proximity of the equipment, specifically, the encoder at the high school.

Russ stated that he would like to do more video-taping of school events, including sports. He stated that he and Joe Stanley, teacher, would like to co-teach a production class by the next school year. He has spoken with the Student Advisory Council regarding creating a show that would be submitted in competition with other schools.

Mr. Munroe addressed the status of moving the school committee meetings to the high school library. He stated that he has been working with Comcast to make this happen. The equipment will be tested, camera angles and placement will need to be configured, however, due to the fact that the mixer is now at maximum capacity, there will not be additional microphones available immediately. School committee members will still need to share.

3. COMMENTS BY VISITORS, DELEGATIONS

None.

4. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. Curriculum Director’s Report

1. Home Schooling Update

Ms. Imel reported that 26 students are currently being home schooled and there are 21 approved home schooling plans. This encompasses 17 families. The plans must be approved annually. Home schooling is considered a private school, there is no home schooling law in the Commonwealth.

2. DESE Growth Model

Telena used a PowerPoint presentation to explain the DESE’s Growth Model to the committee. A typical rate of “student growth percentile” is 40-60%. She explained that the results of this model speaks to the science of teaching. The results show where an area of the curriculum may need to be adjusted to increase student success.

3. Professional Release Time 10/14/09

Telena gave the school committee a list of the professional development offerings during the professional release time on October 14th.

Ms. Imel spoke about Amesbury's part in a combined Teaching American History grant among seven other school systems.

B. Superintendent's Report

1. MSBA Statement of Interest

The superintendent stated that he and Mr. Bergeron explained the statement of interest form for a possible future renovation of the Amesbury Elementary School to the Municipal Council. The Council voted in agreement to proceed with this statement of interest.

Mr. Jack stated that former superintendent, Steve Gerber, called to update David on work done to the elementary school during Steve's tenure. There had been a renovation to the roof, new burners and the addition of the portable classrooms.

The superintendent also stated that the deadline for submitting the statement has been extended to mid-November. There have been instances where the MSBA has approved projects due to immediate need.

He reported that the Academy of Strategic Learning has officially changed their name to: Amesbury Academy Charter Public School.

Mr. Jack stated that the state has a \$600 million shortfall that will probably affect the town and schools through Chapter 70 and circuit breaker.

He noted that high school principal, Les Murray, was featured in the NECCO Report to the Community. The school department's relationship with NECCO has been very strong with the dual enrollment program as well as other programs.

ITEMS FOR APPROVAL OR EARLY CONSIDERATION

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Bonnie Schultz, seconded by Debra Bibeau to approve the regular minutes dated October 6, 2009. Vote: 6 Yes, 1 Abstain (Hanshaw), Student Rep., Yes.

B. BUSINESS

1. Quarterly Report

Motion by Paula Blair, seconded by Gale Hanshaw to accept the Quarterly Report as presented at the last meeting. Unanimous, Yes.

2. Acceptance of \$2000 Gift for Windrush Farms

Motion by Debra Bibeau, seconded by Bonnie Schultz to accept the donation of \$2000 from The Newburyport Five Cents Charitable Foundation, Inc. for the Windrush Farm Program. Unanimous, Yes.

3. Acceptance of Gift of Ludwig Drum Set

Motion by Debra Bibeau, seconded by Bonnie Schultz to accept the donation of a Ludwig drum set valued over \$500. Unanimous, Yes.

4. School Committee Goals 09-10

Mr. Schwartz read the final version of the school committee's goals. Ms. Bibeau explained that this year the committee used a new format to include a focus area and ways to measure progress on each goal throughout the year.

Motion by Debra Bibeau, seconded by Gale Hanshaw to accept the school committee goals for the 2009-2010 school year. Unanimous, Yes, Student Rep., Yes.

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

5. MASC Resolutions

Resolution #1 – School Funding

Ms. Bibeau read aloud the rationale for each resolution.

Motion by Debra Bibeau, seconded by Tom McGee to support Resolution #1. Unanimous Opposed, Student Rep., Opposed.

Motion by Debra Bibeau, seconded by Bonnie Schultz to support Resolution #1 by deleting "Restore the state income tax to 5.9%". Unanimous, Yes, Student Rep., Yes.

Resolution #2 – METCO

Rationale read aloud.

Motion by Debra Bibeau, seconded by Bonnie Schultz to support Resolution #2. Unanimous, Yes, Student Rep., Yes.

Resolution #3 – Medicaid

Rationale read aloud.

Motion by Debra Bibeau, seconded by Bonnie Schultz to support Resolution #3. 4 Opposed (Kezer, McGee, Blair, Schwartz), 3 Yes (Bibeau, Schultz, Hanshaw), Student Rep. Opposed.

Resolution #4 – Readiness Schools

Rationale read aloud.

- Ms. Bibeau explained the difference between Commonwealth charter schools and readiness schools. Local school departments have no local authority over Commonwealth charter schools. Unlike readiness schools where the local school department does have authority, much like the Amesbury Academy and the Amesbury School Department operate.

Motion by Debra Bibeau, seconded by Bonnie Schultz to support Resolution #4. Unanimous, Yes, Student Rep., Yes.

Resolution #5 – Charter Schools

Rationale read aloud.

Motion by Debra Bibeau, seconded by Stanley Schwartz to support Resolution #5. Unanimous, Yes, Student Rep., Yes.

There was a brief recess take at 9:30 p.m. per a request from Comcast Cable. At 9:40 p.m. the meeting resumed.

Resolution #6 – District Restructuring

Rationale read aloud.

Motion by Debra Bibeau, seconded by Stanley Schwartz to support Resolution #6. Unanimous, Yes, Student Rep., Yes.

Resolution #7 – School Improvement Plans

Rationale read aloud.

Motion by Debra Bibeau, seconded by Stanley Schwartz to support Resolution #7. 5 Yes, 2 Opposed (Kezer, Blair), Student Rep., Yes.

Resolution #8 – Reauthorization of Elementary & Secondary Education Act

Rationale read aloud.

Motion by Debra Bibeau, seconded by Tom McGee, to support Resolution #8. Unanimous, Yes, Student Rep., Yes.

Resolution #9 – Charter School Reimbursement

Rationale read aloud.

Motion by Debra Bibeau, seconded by Bonnie Schultz, to support Resolution #9. Unanimous, Yes, Student Rep., Yes.

Resolution #10 – Resolution In Support Of Educator Excellence

Rationale read aloud.

Motion by Debra Bibeau, seconded by Gale Hanshaw, to support Resolution #10. Unanimous, Yes, Student Rep., Yes.

Resolution #11 – Inclusion Of School Committee Members On State Task Forces, Special Committees and Commissions

Rationale read aloud.

Motion by Debra Bibeau, seconded by Tom McGee, to support Resolution #11. Unanimous, Yes, Student Rep., Yes.

6. MASC Delegate Vote

Motion by Stanley Schwartz, seconded by Paula Blair to appoint Tom McGee as the Delegate to the Joint Conference in November. Unanimous, Yes, Student Rep., Yes.

Motion by Gale Hanshaw, seconded by Paula Blair to appoint Debra Bibeau as the Alternate Delegate to the Joint Conference in November. Unanimous, Yes, Student Rep., Yes.

C. WARRANT

Motion by Paula Blair, seconded by Tom McGee to approve the warrant dated October 22, 2009 in the amount of \$496,460.32. Unanimous, Yes.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**A. Subcommittee Reports****1. Budget/Finance Subcommittee**

This subcommittee will meet on November 4th at 6:00 p.m.

2. Policy Subcommittee

This subcommittee will meet on October 21st at 8:00 a.m. in the superintendent's office.

3. Personnel Subcommittee

This subcommittee met prior to the full committee meeting. Ms. Schultz reported that the latest personnel report was reviewed and that the school department is now fully staffed. They will be reviewing job descriptions starting with the nursing staff. Mr. Jack explained the plans that are in place while the school committee secretary is out on a medical leave. Qualifications of coaches was also discussed.

4. Student Advisory Council

Chanelle Havey reported that SAC met on October 13th. Only one freshman came to the meeting so they are trying to recruit more freshmen. SAC will be meeting with Kevin Kish at their next meeting so that he can explain the new Point of Sale program for the lunchrooms. She said that they are hoping that by Spring the senior class will be able to use the courtyard for lunch times.

5. High School Building Committee

Mr. McGee stated that the next meeting will take place on October 27th in the Student Activity Room at AHS. They will hopefully get an update on the progress with the resurfacing of the high school track.

COMMUNICATIONS

- Ms. Bibeau stated that she may be unable to attend the meeting of November 17th.
- Ms. Schultz stated that some members of the school committee had a tour and a luncheon at Whittier Vo-Tech.
- Ms. Bibeau asked if the school committee would like to host an open house at the high school for those who couldn't make the one that the building committee held.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Status Update on GLEC (11/4/09)
2. Superintendent's 09-10 Goals (11/4/09)
3. Elementary School Improvement Plans (11/4/09)
4. Middle and High School Improvement Plans (11/17/09)
5. School Committee Open House at AHS
6. Student Advisory Council to SC Meeting (12/1/09)

Motion by Bonnie Schultz, seconded by Tom McGee to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 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.