

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
AMESBURY MIDDLE SCHOOL
OCTOBER 6, 2009**

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

The Chair called the meeting to order. Mr. McGee led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. PRESENTATIONS

A. Therapeutic Program – Kathleen Glennon

Ms. Glennon, Director of Special Education, explained a new program at the high school, “OPTIONS”, funded by ARRA monies.

3. COMMENTS BY VISITORS, DELEGATIONS

- Gregory Noyes, 8 Clark’s Road, was present. He stated his disappointment in the changes to the athletic participation policy as it does not make any special accommodation for a “no cut” policy for all seniors. He also stated that the policy does not coincide with what is in the student handbook. He asked if students who attend the Amesbury Academy are eligible to participate in AHS athletic teams and are any students from the Amesbury Academy participating. The school committee answered “yes” to both of those questions.

4. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. Business Administrator’s Report

1. Preliminary Quarterly Report

Mr. Bergeron reported that there were three accounts in the “red” on the spreadsheets he gave to the committee just prior to the meeting. He explained why they were over spent and where the monies to balance these accounts will come from. He also reported that \$41,175 has been received in bus transportation fees with approximately \$30,000 that will be collected in addition to that amount.

South Hampton tuition will total \$436,000 for the school year, \$36,000 over what was originally expected. Special education out of district placement accounts are staying within the budget at this time. Administrators have been told that the budget is in “soft” freeze, nothing that is considered unessential may be purchased by any school department cost center.

B. Curriculum Director's Report

1. Girls, Inc. Program - AMS

- Ms. Imel explained that this is a national program. She and Mr. Curry are working on the plans for the pilot program set up. The program will begin with 2 blocks of 6th grade girls during their study hall on days 1 and 3. It will involve 25-40 girls. Ms. Imel and Mr. Curry will keep the committee informed as to how this program is going and will give a final report at the end of the school year.

2. Title I Summer Program Update

- Ms. Imel reported on the success of the Title I Summer Literacy Camp. She showed the committee the feedback using a pie chart. 45% of the students showed growth in their skills over the summer, 48% maintained their skill levels and 8% showed regression.

3. K-12 Literacy Plan 09-12

- The committee was given this plan at the last school committee meeting. Since that time there was one correction and the leadership team gave their approval. The committee will be asked to approve this plan in the business section of this meeting.

4. MCAS Results Presentation

- The Curriculum Director made a PowerPoint presentation comparing all 2009 MCAS results with the 2008 results and the state averages.

C. Superintendent's Report

1. Changes to the State's Conflict of Interest Law

The superintendent spoke briefly about changes to the Conflict of Interest Law and what the school department employees must do to be in compliance with the law. All school and town employees and board members will have to read the law, take a test and get a certification of understanding that will be sent to the Town Clerk.

2. New Whittier Visit Date

Mr. Jack told the committee that the new date for the tour and luncheon at Whittier is October 20th. For those who can't make it on that day, another date would be chosen that works for them.

3. **Superintendent's Goals 09-10**

The superintendent and the Mayor are working on goals for the superintendent that are in line with the school committee goals. These goals will be ready for a future school committee meeting vote.

4. **AEFI Fundraiser**

The superintendent announced that the AEFI fundraiser was a success. Ken Parkinson, AHS art teacher, was the recipient of a \$10,000 grant from AEFI for creating an art gallery at the high school.

5. **H1N1 Update**

Mr. Jack stated that there have been no confirmed cases of the H1N1 virus in the school department. There is a test to confirm the illness and if the test hasn't been done on someone who suspects they have the virus, it is only speculation until confirmed. The website continues to be updated with the latest information.

The Mayor stated that the town has held a seasonal flu clinic. The state has certified town EMT's to give flu shots. More than 500 flu shots were given out in a matter of 2 hours. Senior citizens who can't get out are being visited and given the flu shot. The H1N1 at risk population includes children and pregnant mothers. It is hoped that the whole school system will be inoculated against the H1N1 virus. Flexibility will be given to students who are out of school because of the swine flu with regard to their studies. Ms. Bibeau stated that the MIAA will be coming out with some information regarding this.

Mr. Jack reported that the high school building committee has confirmed that there are funds available from the high school project that will be used to resurface the high school track. It should be resurfaced by the end of October. Ms. Bibeau asked if there would be a section where students with athletic shoes can walk across without damaging the track.

ITEMS FOR APPROVAL OR EARLY CONSIDERATION

A. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Bonnie Schultz, seconded by Tom McGee to approve the regular minutes dated September 21, 2009. Unanimous, Yes.

B. BUSINESS

1. K-12 Literacy Plan 09-12

Motion by Debra Bibeau, seconded by Stanley Schwartz to accept the K-12 Literacy Plan as presented previously in the meeting. Unanimous, Yes, Student Rep., Yes.

2. MSBA Statement of Interest

The superintendent presented the Chair with the wording necessary for the school committee to vote to accept the submission of the Statement of Interest.

Motion by Debra Bibeau, seconded by Bonnie Schultz to give the superintendent of schools permission to submit a Statement of Interest to the Massachusetts School Building Authority as follows:

Resolved: Having convened in an open meeting on Tuesday October 6, 2009, the School Committee of Amesbury in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest dated October 13, 2009 for the Amesbury Elementary School located at 20 South Hampton Road, Amesbury, Ma. which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which Amesbury may be invited to apply to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future.

The following priorities have been included in the Statement of Interest:

2. Elimination of Existing Severe Crowding (currently there are six additional portable classrooms. The main school building has no additional capacity)

4. Prevention of severe overcrowding expected to result from increased enrollments

7. Replacement of or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with state and approved local requirements (Original building was built in 1968. The structure has had no major renovations since it was built. Many of the classrooms are undersized as compared to recommended standards currently. Six portable classrooms are attached to the school and are nearing the end of their useful life as a temporary solution. The electrical, HVAC and plumbing infrastructures are all original offering very little energy efficiency), and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits Amesbury to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

Vote: Unanimous, Yes, Student Rep., Yes.

3. State Ethics Commission's Acknowledgement

As the superintendent explained during his report, the State Ethics Commission is requiring all employees of the Commonwealth to read the Conflict of Interest Law and take a test online to earn a certification to be forwarded to the Town Clerk. This process must happen every two years.

Motion by Bonnie Schultz, seconded by Tom McGee to accept the process put forth by the State Ethics Commission that states that every municipal employee or board member must read the statement and go online and receive certification as required. Unanimous, Yes, Student Rep., Yes.

4. School Committee Goals 09-10

The school committee met prior to this meeting and made some changes to the draft goals. The changes agreed upon will be made and sent via email to the school committee for review prior to a vote of acceptance at the next school committee meeting.

C. WARRANT

Motion by Stanley Schwartz, seconded by Bonnie Schultz to approve the warrant dated October 8, 2009 in the amount of \$264,100.66. Unanimous, Yes.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. Subcommittee Reports

1. Budget/Finance Subcommittee

Ms. Bibeau spoke of the transfers that will take place to get three accounts out of the "red". An update on GLEC was discussed. The track at the high school will be resurfaced as part of the building project. Chartwells will be putting in a point of sales process. Information will go in the poly's telling parents to tune into the next school committee meeting and look on Channel 18 to be educated on the new process for paying for lunches. Mr. Bergeron also gave the Budget/Finance subcommittee an update on the ARRA report.

2. Policy Subcommittee

This subcommittee will meet on October 21st at 8:00 a.m. in the superintendent's office. The policy manual is now accessible through the Internet using the town/school website.

3. Personnel Subcommittee

This subcommittee will meet again on October 20th at 6:00 p.m.

4. Student Advisory Council

Chanelle Havey reported that they will be talking to freshmen who are interested in joining SAC. The next meeting is on October 13th at 7:00.

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.

COMMUNICATIONS

- Ms. Bibeau announced an upcoming meeting regarding a Citizens for Public Schools Conference on 10/17 at Bunker Hill Community College. She also noted that the meeting list for the joint conference was mailed to all members to sign up. She also asked if SAC could come to a meeting in December or January.
- The superintendent stated that Russ Munroe will be meeting with Comcast this week and should have a better idea of where the next meeting will be held. Mr. Jack will keep the committee updated. There will be signage directing people to the AHS library entrance. Subcommittee meetings will switch from the middle school to the high school library when the regular school committee meetings switch to the high school.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Status Update on GLEC (10/20/09)
2. School Committee 09-10 Goals (10/20/09)
3. Superintendent's 09-10 Goals (10/20/09)
4. Tour and Lunch at Whittier on October 20th at 11:00 a.m.
5. Home Schooling (10/20/09)
6. Sparhawk School (10/20/09)
7. MASC Resolutions and Delegate Election (10/20/09)
8. Chartwells' Point of Service (10/20/09)
9. Streaming Video – Russ Munroe (10/20/09)
10. Elementary School Improvement Plans (11/5/09)
11. Middle and High School Improvement Plans (11/17/09)

Motion by Bonnie Schultz, seconded by Stanley Schwartz to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 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.