

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
AMESBURY HIGH SCHOOL
Recorded - DECEMBER 2, 2009 - as Amended**

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

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

2. PRESENTATIONS

A. Amesbury Academy Charter School – Donna Georges

Donna Georges – Principal, gave a power point presentation about the success and the challenges of the Charter School. Some of the successes that she spoke about were: the increase in MCAS scores, Parent Advisory Council, and the Literacy Grant in the amount of \$10,000.00. Some of the challenges that are facing the Academy are: space restraints, continued improvements in the MCAS scores and adequate staffing. Ms. Georges spoke about the Billboard Project that was an all school project. All of the students voted on the image that would be used for the billboard. The students went through four stages of service: learning, reflection, write and analysis.

She also presented the committee with a hard copy of the 2008-2009 Annual Report.

3. COMMENTS BY VISITORS, DELEGATIONS

none

4. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. Curriculum Director's Report

1. State and Federal Grant Update FY10

Telena Imel updated the Committee regarding the State and Federal Grants. She spoke about how some of the Special Education Grant monies were decreased but was able to be covered by stimulus money. A hard copy of the grant summary was given to the committee.

B. Superintendent's Report

1. MASC/MASS Conference

The superintendent spoke about the Mass Association of School Committee Conference held at the Cape. Deb Bibeau was honored as the out-going president of the Association and for her extraordinary work. Many members of the committee attended including the AHS Jazz Band and Mr. Horan. Mr. Jack congratulated Ms. Bibeau and also the Jazz Band.

Mr. Jack went on to say that the three day conference was very informational regarding school buildings and the FY11 budget and predictions.

2. **CES – Primary Evacuation Shelter**

Cashman Elementary School will be the Primary Evacuation Shelter because of its ability to provide “full” utilization under the power supplied by the generator. Emergency Management requested the change from AMS to CES because of last years’ evacuation to the middle school and the lack of heat thru the generator. This will be a regional shelter for neighborhood communities.

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

A. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Mayor Kezer corrected the minutes stating that Representative Costello also joined Judge Uhlarik and Mayor Kezer at the Middle School speaking to fifth graders about the three branches of government.

Motion by Bonnie Schultz, seconded by Gale Hanshaw, to approve the regular minutes dated November 17, 2009, as amended. Vote 6 Yes, 2 Abstain (Blair and Bibeau), Student Rep., Yes.

B. **BUSINESS**

1. **Acceptance of Book donation to AHS \$1300**

Motion by Debra Bibeau, seconded by Paula Blair, to approve a book donation in the amount to \$1300 to AHS. Unanimous, Yes, Student rep, Yes.

2. **2nd Reading Policy EGAF – Cell Phones and Portable Communication Devices**

- Discussion was made by Bonnie Schultz regarding the fact that this policy and what is written in the schools’ handbooks do not coordinate. Ms. Hanshaw stated that the policy is a general statement and each school needs to be more specific. Mr. Swartz asked Mr. Jack if he would bring this policy to his leadership team and discuss it with the principals. Ms. Havey, student rep, stated that cell phone use is not clear at the high school.

Motion by Debra Bibeau, seconded by Stan Swartz, to bring this policy back to policy committee. Unanimous, Yes, - Student Rep., Yes.

3. **2nd Reading Policy IHBAA – Observation of Special Education Program and their Designees for Evaluation Purposes**

Motion by Gale Hanshaw, seconded by Stanley Schwartz, to approve Policy IHBAA on a 2nd Reading. Unanimous, Yes, - Student Rep., Yes.

C. **WARRANT**

Motion by Gale Hanshaw, seconded by Paula Blair, to approve the warrant dated, December 3, 2009 in the amount of \$249,528.58. Unanimous, Yes, - Student Rep., Yes.

6. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. Subcommittee Reports

1. **Budget/Finance Subcommittee**
Debra Bibeau reported that they met prior to this meeting. They discussed the FY11 timeline and changed some of the dates. They spoke about the Race To The Top and MASC – National School board.
2. **Policy Subcommittee**
This subcommittee will be meeting December 3, 2009.
3. **Personnel Subcommittee**
Next meeting will be December 15, 2009.
4. **Student Advisory Council**
Chanelle Havey reported that SAC met and discussed that the lunch lines were too long at the high school with the new system. This may be because students are not using the pre-pay system and paying ahead. Next meeting will be December 14, 2009.
5. **High School Building Committee**
Next meeting will be Friday at 7:30 AM. Ms. Bibeau asked to please check where the boys and girls track record holder board is. It has been missing since construction. Also missing is the booster banners. She also stated that there use to be a cement pad outside of the boys locker room which helped with the mud that enters the building but it is no longer there.

B. COMMUNICATIONS

- Mayor Kezer spoke about the Amesbury parade that will be December 5th at 3:30. Adele from Maggies Sundae is heading it up this year.
- Amesbury High School was recognized for their donation of \$1230.00 to Our Neighbors Table.
- The Essex Attorney will be holding a conference on changes in the Open Meeting Law on Wednesday, December 16, 2009, at 7:00 PM
- Debra Bibeau spoke about a meeting on December 12, 2009, regarding the Senate Bill, 'Race To The Top' money, Alternative School, Charter Schools and Professional Development.
- * Ms. Bibeau thanked the committee for their support through this challenging year as Ambassador of MASC. She will be serving on policy and by-law committees in DC in the future. Ms. Bibeau spoke about the workshop at the Cape that will be headed by Tia Costell who is the Educational Coordinator for MASC and will be speaking about educational and teaching tools. Census www.census.gov/2010census.
- * Mr. Jack noted that Deb Bibeau had sent a thank you letter to Mr. Horan and all the Jazz band members for their performance at the MASC conference.
- Dave Jack acknowledged Rebecca Crochiere as a finalist in the National Merit Scholarship competition.

7. FUTURE MEETINGS AND AGENDA ITEMS

1. Meeting with Student Advisory council (12/15/09)
2. Reception for Amesbury High School Renovation – no date
3. School Committee Open House at AHS
4. New School Calendar 12/15/09
5. AHS student presentation regarding the NECCO program
6. Presentation on the ‘Race To The Top’ program and what it means.

8. PRESS CONFERENCE

None

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

Motion by Bonnie Schultz, seconded by Stan Swartz, to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 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.