

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
AMESBURY HIGH SCHOOL
JUNE 7, 2010**

Present at 7:00 p.m. were Thatcher Kezer, Chair, Debra Bibeau, Stanley Schwartz, Bonnie Schultz, Gale Hanshaw, Ann Connolly King, David Jack, Superintendent of Schools and Courtney Ouellet, SAC Representative.

The Chair called the meeting to order. The Mayor welcomed Courtney Ouellet, SAC Representative to the school committee. Ms. Ouellet led all attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. PRESENTATIONS

1. Gifts to Retirees

The Mayor read the citations from Michael Costello and Steve Baddour aloud once and distributed the citations as well as silver engraved frames to each retiree in attendance; Gail Lisauskas (24 years of service), Sandy Stanton (23 years of service), Deborah Welch (35 years of service) and Wayne Adams (33 years of service). CaroleAnn Quinlan was unable to attend the meeting. Mayor Kezer also read the engraving on one of the frames which stated the teacher's name, years of service and a "thank you" from the school committee on behalf of the children of Amesbury whose lives they have touched.

Ms. Bibeau stated that the retirees have enriched the lives of all students, not just the students that sat in their own classroom.

2. Summer Reading Program

Telena Imel highlighted the elementary schools summer reading lists. Maureen Hardin spoke about what is expected at the middle school level for students over the summer. Patty Hoyt spoke about the expectations of students at the high school level. The high school has involved all staff by inviting them to suggest books for the students to choose from. This program is called "Faculty Favorites". Patty contacts 8th graders at AMS as well as the Barnard School and local area schools who have students entering Amesbury High School as freshmen so that they know what is expected of them regarding the reading assignments. The reading requirement can be viewed on Channel 18, in the local newspaper, the public library and Connect Ed. It is all on the APS website as well. Ms. Hoyt stated that the Amesbury Public Library is extremely supportive and cooperative with this requirement. Patty also encouraged parents to have the student play a large part in which books they would like to read from the lists.

On September 16th the students go to a discussion group with the faculty person whose book they read over the summer.

Telena Imel praised Maureen Hardin and Patty Hoyt for all of the work they do to prepare these lists and spread the word regarding where the students can find the books.

3. AMS Reading and Writing Initiatives – Maureen Hardin

Telena Imel introduced Maureen Hardin as the Rotary Educator of the Year and asked Maureen to share some of the speech she made accepting this honor at Rotary. Ms. Hardin has put together a recipe for academic excellence because they are cooking up something “special” at AMS.

- A knowledgeable and supportive administrative team
- Tufts consultants and lab teachers
- A healthy dose of John Collins writing across the curriculum
- Teachers at all levels willing to co-teach with Maureen
- Volunteerism
- Students who are ready, willing and able to learn
- Implementation Specialist, Jean Peterson

III. COMMENTS BY VISITORS, DELEGATIONS

None.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. Curriculum Director’s Report

1. Title I Program Staff Surveys

Telena Imel explained the charts that were included in the school committee packets. She is still gathering together the surveys from parents.

2. Induction Surveys

Ms. Imel made a presentation on the input she received from mentors and mentees on the induction program.

The superintendent invited the school committee members to and end of the year luncheon with the mentors and mentees.

B. Business Administrator’s Report

1. FY’10 Budget Update

Mike Bergeron handed out a list of transfers that the budget finance subcommittee had voted to approve at their meeting at 5:00 p.m. Mike pointed out that wrapping up FY’10 without any accounts in the negative was the best way to present it to the City. He noted that there is over \$300k that will go to pre-pay SPED tuition.

Motion by Bonnie Schultz, seconded by Stanley Schwartz to approve budget transfers as presented by the Business Administrator. Unanimous, Yes.

C. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Jack thanked everyone for their continued support with regard to the FY'11 budget. It appeared that the Municipal Council appreciated the input from the public. Thanks to the Municipal Council for voting to keep the school department budget as it was originally presented. The final vote will take place on June 22nd.

The Mayor pointed out that the Municipal Council only made three changes to the budget. One was to adjust the Deputy Fire Chief's Salary, to decrease money from the Municipal Council professional development account and a debt service payment of \$200,000 regarding the water treatment plant.

The superintendent gave kudos to those individuals who made two graduations this past weekend outstanding. The Seniors graduated at Landry under excellent weather conditions and the Seniors graduated from the Amesbury Academy on Sunday.

He also announced that the baseball team had just won the game they were playing during this meeting and would play Bishop Fenwick on Wednesday at 4:00 p.m. in Lowell.

Mr. Jack gave an overview of negotiations with Comcast regarding Comcast's desire to house only one studio in the City instead of two. Discussions have involved Russ Munroe who is partially paid by Comcast and who runs the studio at the high school. Talks are leaning towards moving all of the equipment from the studio in the CVS parking lot up to the high school. The logistics haven't been finalized.

There would be the creation of a non-profit that would be arms length away from the City side. They would enter into a contract with the school. The employees of the non-profit would work under the direction of Russ Munroe. The desire is to wrap up the contract soon and use the summer as the time to set up the studio at high school so that it was ready to go by the time the current contract expires on October 4, 2010. There will be a separation of public and school equipment worked out. A Public, Education and Government (PEG) arrangement will be worked out with the current studio people as they do now. A lot of editing is done by software.

ITEMS FOR APPROVAL OR EARLY CONSIDERATION

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Debra Bibeau, seconded by Bonnie Schultz to approve the regular minutes dated May 18, 2010. Unanimous, Yes.

B. BUSINESS

1. 2nd Reading Policy JFAA Residency

Ms. Hanshaw stated that Mr. Bergeron created this policy to help clarify issues for parents who do not live in Amesbury but drop their children off at Amesbury Schools.

Motion by Gale Hanshaw, seconded by Bonnie Schultz to amend Policy JFAA Residency, change “offices” to “officials” in second paragraph. Unanimous, Yes.

Motion by Stanley Schwartz, seconded by Debra Bibeau to approve Policy JFAA Residency. Unanimous, Yes.

2. 2nd Reading Policy JJD Collection of Student Fees, Fines and Charges

Ms. Hanshaw stated that Mr. Bergeron created this policy to give parents guidelines and consequences for fees that go unpaid.

Motion by Gale Hanshaw, seconded by Stanley Schwartz to approve Policy JJD Collection of Student Fees, Fines and Charges. Unanimous, Yes.

C. WARRANT

Motion by Gale Hanshaw, seconded by Debra Bibeau to approve the warrant dated June 3, 2010 in the amount of \$148,116.96. Unanimous, Yes.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. Subcommittee Reports

1. Budget/Finance Subcommittee

Ms. Bibeau stated that the subcommittee had voted to approve the transfers as presented by Mr. Bergeron. Chartwell’s made a presentation to the subcommittee and they asked Mr. Kish to make this presentation to the full committee at the June 15th meeting. The subcommittee will be recommending an increase in lunch prices by \$.25 and a la carte items by \$.10 but no increase in milk prices. School Committee members should contact Mike Bergeron or Kevin Kish with any questions they may have once they have reviewed the presentation Kevin Kish created.

Mr. Bergeron made a presentation on performance contracting to get capital items completed.

2. Policy Subcommittee

This subcommittee will meet on June 22nd at 3:00 p.m. in the Superintendent’s office.

3. Personnel Subcommittee

This subcommittee will meet before the June 15th school committee meeting.

4. Student Advisory Council

Courtney Ouellet gave her report on what the Student Advisory Council is planning. They will be talking to 8th graders about getting involved in high school activities in the fall. Mentors will be working with freshmen.

COMMUNICATIONS

- Ms. Bibeau spoke about how great the graduation was in the stadium on Friday night. It is a great tradition in Amesbury and gets better each year. She also praised students who participated in the Memorial Day Parade at Landry.
- Mr. Schwartz stated that he was able to attend a lot of the senior week activities unlike in years past. He commended the Mayor on the talk he gave prior to the Municipal Council vote on the budget. He also praised Mr. Jack and Mr. Bergeron for their hard work.
- Mr. Schwartz also attended the Academy graduation and found it very touching and he encouraged people to seek it out on Channel 18 or the website. He said that the success at the Academy speaks to one of their goals to retain and attract quality staff. The teachers at the Academy as well as Donna Georges really care about these kids. The staff has enriched the lives of these students.
- The school committee requested that the AEFI Award winners be read at the next meeting.
- The Mayor thanked those who came to the Municipal Council public hearing and asked them to come to the final vote on June 22nd.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Whittier Superintendent and Reps. (6/15/10)
2. Amesbury Academy Charter Renewal (6/15/10)
3. Report on Diversity in Students & Personnel
4. AEFI Award Winners
5. Chartwell's Presentation (6/15/10)
6. School Committee Goal Setting Session

Ms. Connolly King stated that she had asked for financial information on the Amesbury Academy and that all school committee members should get this information in their next school committee packet.

Motion by Debra Bibeau, seconded by Bonnie Schultz to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. Unanimous, 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.