

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
AMESBURY HIGH SCHOOL
AUGUST 17, 2010**

Present at 7:00 p.m. were Debra Bibeau, Stanley Schwartz, Gale Hanshaw, Tom McGee, Ann Connolly King, David Jack, Superintendent of Schools and Emily Noonan, SAC Representative.

The Chair was not in attendance so Ms. Bibeau, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order. Student Representative, Emily Noonan, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Bibeau requested a moment of silence in honor of Sergeant Andrew Nicol who was killed in action while serving in the military in Afghanistan.

II. PRESENTATIONS

1. Facilities Status – Brad Ford

Mr. Ford handed out a list of summer projects district-wide and by individual schools that have been completed or are in process on their way to completion. This list is attached as part of the minutes of the school committee meeting.

Mr. Schwartz gave kudos to the facilities crew for working so hard all summer to get these projects completed. He asked if there was a problem with the roof at the middle school because it appears to be changing color. Mr. Ford explained that it is dirt and not mold. He will be speaking the S. J. Services to see if they would power wash the front of the middle school. Ms. Bibeau asked if there were any irrigation issues on the grounds. Mr. Ford stated that most of the grounds had irrigation systems in place. He also said that the field hockey fields have been left overgrown on purpose because there was only dirt on them at the beginning of the summer.

Ms. Bibeau asked about mowing the embankment next to the tennis courts. Mr. Ford stated that mowing the grass on the embankment is too dangerous to mow. They mow the grass around the fence but can't mow the grass down the embankment.

III. COMMENTS BY VISITORS, DELEGATIONS

None.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. Business Administrator's Report

1. Miscellaneous Projects and the End of the Year Report

Mr. Bergeron reported that the End of the Year Report was in process. He stated that Mr. Ford would be attending a meeting with surrounding communities who want to create a performance contract bid as a group to help share the costs of a variety of maintenance issues.

The Amesbury Public Schools will be bidding out van routes. There was a pre-bid meeting and 14 vendors picked up bidding documents. The contract will be awarded next week.

Mr. Bergeron will have a 1st quarter report in October. He also stated that he will be bidding out the HVAC contract again. The current contractor did not take a raise this year.

Ms. Bibeau wished Mr. Bergeron well in his upcoming nuptials.

B. Curriculum Director's Report

1. Professional Development Schedule

Ms. Imel gave the committee a schedule of the upcoming professional development days. They are working on short term and long term goals. On the first day for teachers, August 31st, there will be a guest speaker present to talk about bullying; how to be aggressive on keeping kids safe.

During the 5 Release Time Days staff will be working on technology/math/common core standards. How does the state's adoption of the common core standards affect school department curriculum? The Leadership Team will be looking at this during their upcoming retreat.

Ms. Connolly King asked about Math writing, why would it be different from any other writing? Ms. Imel explained that students need to learn the words to use to explain how they solved a Math problem. It is not a narrative.

C. Superintendent's Report

1. Mr. Jack explained that Massachusetts has been selected as a finalist in the Race to the Top monies. He also stated that the state has adopted the common core standards as 35 other states have done.

The superintendent is hoping that Amesbury will receive funds through the Education Jobs fund program. He does not know when monies will become available or how they will be received. He is hoping to bring back two teacher positions that were not funded due to budget cuts, specifically a 3rd grade teacher at the Cashman Elementary School. Teacher to student ratios are approximately 28:1. The Amesbury Elementary School also needs a .5 Special Ed. teacher. These teaching positions will be posted as anticipated openings. There will also be an advertisement placed in the Eagle Tribune.

Ms. Connolly King stated that she would hope that the state would give monies to those communities who chose to fund their education programs and not reward those communities that chose not to do so. Ms. Bibeau suggested that people contact their legislators to express their concerns regarding this issue.

Mr. Jack invited the school committee to a “meet and greet” for new teachers on August 25th from 8-8:30 a.m. in the Middle School Library. He also stated that there is a plan to offer an adult enrichment program at the high school on Tuesday and Thursday nights. High school teacher, Maggie Furlong, along with members of the leadership team are working on possibly offering drivers’ education, cooking, etc. The choices will develop over the next few years. Ms. Connolly King stated her excitement at these types of courses being offered to give back to the community by using this new facility that is part of the town.

ITEMS FOR APPROVAL OR EARLY CONSIDERATION

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Tom McGee, seconded by Gale Hanshaw to approve the school committee minutes dated July 20, 2010. Unanimous, Yes.

B. BUSINESS

1. 1st Reading Policy EEAA School Bus Transportation

Ms. Hanshaw told the full committee that the policy subcommittee is suggesting that since the cost of transportation was increased from \$200 to \$300 with a \$450 family cap, the \$100 for the second child has become unnecessary.

Motion by Stanley Schwartz, seconded by Gale Hanshaw to waive the first reading of Policy EEAA School Bus Transportation. Unanimous, Yes.

Motion by Stanley Schwartz, seconded by Gale Hanshaw to approve Policy EEAA School Bus Transportation as amended. Unanimous, Yes.

2. 1st Reading Policy JFCB/GCBC & GBCBC/JFCB Promoting Civil Rights & Prohibiting Harassment, Sexual Harassment, Hazing, Bullying, Cyber Bullying, Sexting, Discrimination and Hate Crimes

Ms. Hanshaw stated that this policy has been reviewed and revised by the school department counsel and the policy subcommittee agrees with all of the changes as proposed by counsel. This policy will be a business item on the next school committee agenda for a second reading.

3. **1st Reading Policy AA School District Legal Status**
Ms. Hanshaw explained a minor change suggested by the policy subcommittee. This policy will be on the next school committee agenda for a second reading.
4. **1st Reading Policy ADDA Criminal Record Information**
Ms. Hanshaw explained a minor change that is recommended by the policy subcommittee. This policy will be on the next school committee agenda for a second reading.

C. **WARRANT**

Motion by Gale Hanshaw, seconded by Tom McGee to approve the warrant dated July 29, 2010 in the amount of \$315,578.67. Unanimous, Yes.

Motion by Stanley Schwartz, seconded by Gale Hanshaw to approve the warrant dated August 12, 2010 in the amount of \$173,473.17. Unanimous, Yes.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. **Subcommittee Reports**

1. **Budget/Finance Subcommittee**
Ms. Bibeau reported that leasing space on the high property for a cell phone tower was discussed as well as the pending lease agreement with Comcast for Room 142 at the high school.
2. **Policy Subcommittee**
This subcommittee will meet on August 25, at 9:00 a.m. in the Superintendent's office.
3. **Personnel Subcommittee**
Mr. Schwartz reported that the school department is fully staffed at this point. The school department is awaiting news about available funds through the "Jobs Bill" that will allow the hiring of a 3rd grade teacher at Cashman and a .5 teacher at Amesbury Elementary.
4. **Student Advisory Council**
The Student Advisory Council has not met in the new year but will be meeting very soon.

COMMUNICATIONS

- Ms. Bibeau reminded the committee that there is an Early Bird Special for registering for the MASC/MASS Joint Conference. She also stated that there will be a fundraiser hosted by Lena's Seafood in Salisbury that will benefit the Landry Stadium.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Report on Diversity in Students & Personnel
2. CACD/Tufts University Program at AMS
3. Whittier Supt. & Representatives – Bill DeRosa, C. LaBella, T. LeSage (9/21/10)
4. Reading in the Content Area Celebration of Learning AMS – Mike Curry
5. New Schedule AMS – Mike Curry
6. Adult Ed. Program – Maggie Furlong (9/10)
7. School Committee Goal Setting Session (8/24/10)

Motion by Tom McGee, seconded by Gale Hanshaw to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 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.