

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
AMESBURY HIGH SCHOOL
December 3, 2018**

Present at 7:00 p.m. were Mayor Gray, Chair; Deb LaValley, Peter Hoyt, Rob Chamberlain, Gretchen Marinopoulos, Tim Kisielewski, Joan Liporto, and Jared Fulgoni, Interim Superintendent of Schools.

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.

I. Call to Order

Mayor Gray called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM. Mrs. Marinopoulos led the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance and read the Mission Statement aloud.

II. Comments by Visitors, Delegations

One community member spoke regarding their concerns about the AES school building project and access to School Committee members. The following comments/concerns were shared

- Concern that the email links for School Committee members on the City website were not working properly.
- Question about the size of the proposed AES school building – current space is 48,000 square feet and proposed is 100,000. Response that this is related to new mandates in classroom size.
- Voters have the fiduciary responsibility to vote to approve the use of funds.

Mayor Gray thanked everyone for their feedback and closed this part of agenda.

III. Presentations

A. Superintendent's Report:

- Mr. Helliesen is retiring at the end of the school year.
- Position will be posted after the holiday break.
- Updated brochure about the position which includes a timeline; hopeful to have finalists selected by mid-February.
- Will have a committee made up of principals, teachers, school committee, parents and community members.
- A letter and ConnectEd message will go out to invite people to participate.

B. Academic Awards:

- Principals Achievement Award presented to Kyra Tripp
- MASS Award for Academic Excellence presented to Ellie Costello

C. Athletic Awards:

Athletic Director, Glen Gearin, acknowledged our athletic team accomplishments:

- D4 North Sectional Champions – Girls Soccer
- Cape Ann League Baker Champions – Football
- Cape Ann Competition Champions COED Division – Cheering
- State Qualifying teams – Girls Soccer, Football, Cheering, Golf
- All League Selections - Simon Russell (Boys Soccer), Chelsea Lynch (Girls Soccer), Alyssa Pettet (Girls Soccer), Allison Napoli (Girls Soccer), Pat Birmingham (Football), Matthew Scibelli (Football), Troy Marden (Football), Tucker Molin (Football), Ethan Catania (Football)
- CAL Baker Division Sportmanship Award – Girls Field Hockey Team
- Other acknowledgements:
 - Colin McQueen – Cape Ann League – Baker Division, Coach of the Year!
 - CAL ALL STAR Selections – Charles Baxter, Blake Johnson, Sage Dodier, Maddie Robicheau, Jack Vachon, Isabella Fusco, Emma DiPietro, Madelyn Creps
 - Patrick Birmingham – Cape Ann League Baker Division...Defensive POY
 - Football Team – MIAA D5 North Sectional Finalists
 - Amesbury Cross Country – Hosted the CAL Meet
 - Freshmen Football Team – Helped prepare Landry Stadium for the Thanksgiving Day Game
 - Cheerleaders – Girls Soccer – Football Teams – Participating in the Christmas Parade

D. MIAA 2018 Sportmanship Award – District A –Amesbury High School**IV. Communications****A. Resignation of Amy Sherwood from School Committee**

- Read the letter of resignation from Amy Sherwood
- Each committee member acknowledges Amy’s hard work and tenacity; her decision were well-researched and made with careful consideration.
- The opening will be announced at City Council on December 11.

Motion to accept resignation (with regrets) by Mr. Hoyt; seconded by Ms. LaValley. Vote: Yes, Unanimous

B. Other

Mr. Hoyt recognized that December was the last month of the 350th celebration and the steering committee had their last meeting. They had a great holiday parade and the Chamber is sponsoring a Winter Wonderland in mid-December. There will also be a skating rink in the upper millyard on December 15 and 16. There are still 350th commemorative items for sale: Amesbury-opoly, cookbooks, commemorative coins, and cutting boards. Mayor Gray acknowledged that the tree in the center of town and how magnificent it is was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Hoyt and was originally a gift to them from the Nutter family in Topsfield.

V. Items for Approval or Early Consideration

- A. **Approval of Minutes:** 10/29/2018
11/06/2018

Motion by Mr. Kisielecki, seconded by Ms. LaValley to approve the minutes dated October 29, 2018. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Ms. LaValley to approve the minutes dated November 6, 2018. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

- B. **Approval of Warrants:** 11/15/2018 \$548,036.80
12/06/2018 \$234,385.23

Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to approve the warrant in the amount of \$548,036.80 dated November 15, 2018. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mrs. Marinopoulos to approve the warrant in the amount of \$234,385.23 dated December 6, 2018. Vote: Yes, (5); Mr. Hoyt - recuse.

- C. **First Reading of Policies:**

JJE: Student Activity Accounts

The changes to this policy are related to making changes to accommodate increases in account balances during the second half of the year. Submitted as a first reading.

JH: Student Absences and Excuses

The changes to this policy are related to parent/guardian notification of student absence and discipline for excessive absence. Submitted as a first reading.

Proposed Cafeteria Food Waste Rescue Plan

Bruce McBrien shared that a number of people at AES were concerned about the amount of food waste. They met and put together this proposal to give students the opportunity to make a choice to not waste unopened, packaged foods and fresh fruit. Submitted as a first reading of a proposed addendum to the parent handbook.

VI. Informational Items

- A. **Subcommittee Reports**

1. **Policy Subcommittee:** Update was shared with policy readings.

2. **Curriculum Subcommittee:**

Director of Teaching and Learning shared her professional practices and goals with the committee. She gave updates on the work of the curriculum facilitators and the concerns K-8 math. The committee requested a prioritized list of her goals. The main goal of this committee is to be a conduit between the Director of Teaching and Learning and the School Committee. They plan to have an additional meeting in January to continue the conversation.

3. Personnel Subcommittee:

Contract negotiations have been started but the first two planned meetings were cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances. The subcommittee met and discussed standardizing contracts and other items initiated by previous superintendent.

4. Finance Subcommittee:

The subcommittee had a brief meeting and only discussed the first two agenda items. They have an additional meeting planned for December 12th at 4 pm and they will go through the full agenda.

B. School Building Committee Report

The committee met on November 29th at Cashman Elementary School. The Preferred Schematic Report (PSR) is the next item to be submitted to MSBA. Most of the discussion at the meeting was related to the method of managing the project. There are two options – Construction Manager at Risk (CMR) and Design, Bid, Build (DBB). Both MSBA and DiNisco have extensive experience with both types. They will receive and consider bids and consult with other school districts before voting. Next meeting is scheduled for December 20th at 4:30 pm at Cashman Elementary.

VII. Future Meetings and Agenda Items

Discussed the upcoming scheduled subcommittee dates. Future agenda items:

- Update from the principals on attendance
- Mid-year reports from school psych counsels
- Joint meeting with Student Advisory Council (scheduled in January)

VIII. Executive Session

Mayor Gray motioned to go into Executive Session to discuss strategies to negotiate non-union personnel: Building Principals and Directors pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, section 21. Roll call vote was taken:

Tim Kisielski – yes
 Gretchen Marinopoulos – yes
 Rob Chamberlain – yes
 Peter Hoyt – yes
 Deb LaValley – yes
 Mayor Gray - yes

Entered Executive Session at 8:12 pm.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting will adjourn from Executive Session.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gretchen Marinopoulos, Secretary