

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
AMESBURY HIGH SCHOOL  
February 4, 2019**

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Present at 7:00 p.m. were Mayor Gray, Chair; Deb LaValley, Peter Hoyt, Rob Chamberlain, Tim Kisieleski, Robert Lavoie, Ellie Costello, Joan Liporto, and Jared Fulgoni, Interim Superintendent of Schools. Absent with notice: Gretchen Marinopoulos

**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.*

*This meeting will be broadcast live on ACTV and will also be recorded.*

**I. Call to Order**

Mayor Gray called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM. Mr. Hoyt led the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance and read the Mission Statement aloud.

*Motion to take the Student Activity Council Report out of order by Ms. LaValley and seconded by Mr. Chamberlain. Vote: Unanimous*

**Student Activity Report:**

Ms. Costello shared information about a new program – SACTivity Raffle - to encourage student attendance and school spirit. Each time students attend an event, their names will be put in the raffle. Each month, two winners will be chosen and each will receive a \$30 gift card. This program is currently being tested with High School events and students only. If it is successful, they hope to expand it. The High School is having an Ice Cream Social this evening at 9 PM.

**II. Comments by Visitors, Delegations**

**There were no comments.**

**III. Presentations**

**A. Superintendent's Report:**

- The Search Committee for the AES Principal met for the first time. Mr. Hoyt is the School Committee representative on the Committee.
- The Friends of Newburyport Youth Services will be holding their annual Hello Spring Cupcake Contest. The artwork of AMS student, Julianna Muniz was selected as the winner of the t-shirt design contest for this event. Superintendent Fulgoni will be one of a number of judges in the contest.
- Principal Mr. Curry is here to present the School Improvement Plan for the Amesbury Middle School and provide an update on the turnaround process that has begun. The turnaround team has participated in several meetings with

DESE and received training on root cause analysis. The District will be contracting with Seaside Educational Solutions to help with professional development which will be paid for by the grant provided by DESE for this purpose.

**B. AMS School Improvement Plan:**

Michael Curry, Principal, presented the School Improvement Plan for Amesbury Middle School. Mr. Curry thanked the School Council members that have helped work on this plan, the vision statement, and core values. The core of the plan will help with efforts in turning around the school. Time is being spent on:

- Learning to determine the roots causes of the failure and involving everyone (parents, teachers, community members) to help with the improvement
- Plan to bring team leaders back
- Administrative team meets every two weeks to review/discuss absenteeism and they have held an assembly with students to talk about the importance of attendance.
  - Reviewed the data to pinpoint which students need more supports
  - Even though the students receive make-up work, they still lose the face-to-face time
  - Now tracking attendance month by month, looking at absences, chronic tardiness and chronic dismissal
- Implementation of a computer infrastructure improvement plan with a tiered approach so that students, both those excelling and those struggling, can use the programs to advance skills.

**IV. Communications**

**A. Student Advisory Council**

Ellie Costello shared that the SACTivity raffle had its first successful drawing - Maddie Morris and Drew Mahoney won \$30 gift cards. They have already seen an increase in attendance since implementing the raffle. They are currently working on a survey for students/teachers for feedback on the flex schedule.

**B. Other**

Mayor Gray welcomed Mr. Lavoie as the newest member of School Committee.

**V. Items for Approval or Early Consideration**

**A. Approval of Minutes:** 01/07/2019  
*Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to approve the minutes dated January 7, 2019. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.*

**B. Approval of Warrants:** 01/17/2019 \$506,533.94  
 01/24/2019 \$167,311.79  
*Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to approve the warrant in the amount of \$506,533.94 dated January 17, 2019. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.*

*Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Mr. Chamberlain to approve the warrant in the amount of \$167,311.79 dated January 24, 2019. Vote: Unanimous*

**C. Revision to Facilities Use Fee Structure**

Mr. Hoyt asked that the committee accept a motion to make a revision to the language of the Facilities Use Fee Structure to reflect that the rate of payment is 1.5 times the hourly rate. This change reflects what has been practice and is simply formalizing the policy.

***Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Ms. LaValley to accept the revision of the language on the Facilities Use Fee Structure. Vote: Unanimous***

**D. School Choice**

*The School Committee is recommending a vote to offer to open enrollment in Amesbury Public Schools for School Choice.*

The Superintendent recommended that we vote to open School Choice to allow students from other communities to attend Amesbury Public Schools. Our class sizes are very favorable and it was recommended that we open for K-12 as we can close individual grades as they fill.

***Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to open School Choice for grades K-12 for the 2019-2020 school year. Vote: Unanimous***

**E. Statement of Interest to MSBA for AMS Roof Repairs**

The Superintendent requested that the Committee vote to authorize submission of a Statement of Interest to MSBA for the roof repairs for Amesbury Middle School. MSBA would reimburse up to 55% of eligible costs and only recognizes one priority per community. For Amesbury, the AES Building project would take priority.

*Having convened in an open meeting on February 4, 2019, prior to the SOI submission closing date, 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 Form dated February 14, 2019 for the Amesbury Middle School located at 220 Main Street which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future: Replacement, renovation or modernization of school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in a school. The roof is 21 years old and has begun failing in multiple areas causing leaks and water intrusion into the school building. And hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, 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 the City/Town/Regional School District to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.*

***Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Mr. Chamberlain to authorize submission of the Statement of Interest Form dated February 14, 2019. Vote: Unanimous***

**F. School Year 2019-2020 Calendar**

The Superintendent asked that the Committee review the proposed calendar and consider for action next month.

**VI. Informational Items****A. Subcommittee Reports****1. Finance Subcommittee:**

This has been another difficult year with many overages in Special Education costs. The next meeting of the whole will be held on February 11 and will summarize the budget discussion.

It was recommended by the Finance Subcommittee that a Transportation Coordinator stipend be paid to James Queenan for the work he has done and will continue to do with Transfinder.

***Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Ms. LaValley to approve a Transportation Coordinator stipend in the amount of \$2,500 to James Queenan. Vote: Unanimous***

The Finance Subcommittee voted and recommended that the Committee vote to surplus two vehicles a Ford Eco-Wagon and a Malibu.

***Motion by Mr. Chamberlain, seconded by Mr. Lavoie approving surplus of two vehicles. Vote: Unanimous***

**2. Personnel Subcommittee:**

Contract negotiations are in process. The subcommittee has met on several occasions in executive session to review proposals received and to prepare responses.

**B. School Building Committee Report**

The committee met on January 24<sup>th</sup> at Cashman Elementary School. There was a project design update. The Mayor and Superintendent met with MSBA on January 16 for a preliminary vote and the next MSBA vote will be on February 16 to approve the Preferred Schematic Report. Members of the committee and other representatives from both AES and CES will do school site visits. In March the committee will vote to determine which type of construction design management will be used. Between January and June, DiNisco will work on the design plans. There will be another community outreach in the spring. Next meeting is scheduled for February 28<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 pm at Amesbury High School.

**VII. Assignment of Subcommittee Members**

Finance:	Mr. Chamberlain (chair), Ms. LaValley, Mr. Lavoie
Personnel:	Ms. LaValley (chair), Mrs. Marinopoulos, Mr. Kisieleski <i>Ms. LaValley and Mrs. Marinopoulos will continue as part of negotiating team. Mr. Kisieleski will participate in regular Personnel meetings.</i>
Policy:	Mr. Hoyt (chair), Mrs. Marinopoulos, Mr. Kisieleski
Buildings/Grounds:	Mr. Kisieleski (chair), Mr. Lavoie, Mr. Chamberlain
Curriculum:	Mrs. Marinopoulos (chair), Mr. Hoyt
SPED Liaison:	Mrs. Marinopoulos
Legislative Liaison:	Mr. Lavoie
MASC Rep:	Ms. LaValley – Dorothy Presser is new MASC contact
Parliamentarian:	Ms. LaValley

**VIII. Future Meetings/Agenda Items**

School Committee – March 4, 2019

Finance/Budget Meeting of the Whole – February 11, 2019

Personnel – February 12 & 13, 2019 for collective bargaining

Buildings/Grounds – February 25, 2019 at 3pm

Policy – February 25, 2019 at 4 pm

School Building Committee – February 28, 2019 at 4:30 pm at AHS

**IX. Executive Session**

*Mayor Gray motioned to go into Executive Session to discuss strategies to negotiate non-union personnel: Superintendent of Schools pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, section 21 as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the School Committee, as declared by the chair.*

*Roll call vote was taken:*

Tim Kisielecki – yes

Robert Lavoie – yes

Rob Chamberlain – yes

Peter Hoyt – yes

Deb LaValley – yes

Mayor Gray – yes

Gretchen Marinopoulos – absent

**Entered Executive Session at 8:17 pm.**

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

*Meeting will adjourn from Executive Session.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Gretchen Marinopoulos, Secretary