

Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mrs. Marinopoulos to approve the minutes dated March 18, 2019. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Mr. Lavoie to approve the minutes dated April 1, 2019. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

B. Approval of Warrants: 03/28/2019 \$506,942.07

Motion by Mrs. Marinopoulos, seconded by Ms. LaValley to approve the warrant in the amount of \$506,942.07 dated March 28, 2019. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

C. First Reading of Policy JJIB – Athletic Participation

Mr. Hoyt read Policy JJIB-Athletic Participation noting that the policy remains as written with additional text. He shared that he would like to have further discussion with Principal Elizabeth McAndrews and the Assistant Principal/Athletic Director Glen Gearin for additional information before the next reading.

D. FY20 Budget Vote

Superintendent Fulgoni provided an overview of the process the committee went through to come up with the budget that had been presented. The goals of the School Committee were the guiding principle with the addition of programs that will allow Amesbury to provide more opportunities for the children in our community. The Director of Special Education provided details about the data she used to help determine the staffing changes she proposed.

Mayor Gray shared that City Council had allocated supplemental funds as a buffer but unfortunately, district spending has been increasing at an increased rate. He applauded the district management team for the work done and for taking the initiative to make these decisions and better align spending with needs.

Mr. Lavoie noted that as this was his first time going through the process, he was very pleased with the process and that it was done logically, the questions asked were legitimate and clear answers were provided and that communications were substantive.

Motion by the Chair, to accept appropriation of District Administration in the amount of \$925,257. Objected by Ms. LaValley and Mrs. Marinopoulos.

Motion by the Chair, to accept appropriation of Transportation in the amount of \$532,050. Accepted by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Mr. Chamberlain. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

Motion by the Chair, to accept appropriation of Amesbury Elementary School in the amount of \$3,549,381. Objected by Mrs. Marinopoulos and Ms. LaValley.

Motion by the Chair, to accept appropriation of Cashman Elementary School in the amount of \$3,800,802. Accepted by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mr. Chamberlain. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

Motion by the Chair, to accept appropriation of Amesbury Middle School in the

amount of \$6,007,865. Accepted by Mrs. Marinopoulos, seconded by Mr. Lavoie. Vote: Yes; two abstaining (Hoyt and Chamberlain).

Motion by the Chair, to accept appropriation of Amesbury High School in the amount of \$4,803,225. Objected by Mrs. Marinopoulos.

Motion by the Chair, to accept appropriation of District Technology in the amount of \$276,799. Accepted by Mr. Lavoie, seconded by Mr. Chamberlain. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

Motion by the Chair, to accept appropriation of Maintenance in the amount of \$1,746,745. Accepted by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mr. Hoyt. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

Motion by the Chair, to accept appropriation of Curriculum and Professional Development in the amount of \$277,522. Accepted by Mrs. Marinopoulos, seconded by Mr. Chamberlain. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

Motion by the Chair, to accept appropriation of Special Education in the amount of \$4,195,591. Objected by Mr. Chamberlain and Mrs. Marinopoulos.

Motion by the Chair, to accept appropriation of Employee Benefits in the amount of \$5,792,184. Accepted by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Ms. LaValley. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

Motion by the Chair, to accept appropriation of Amesbury Innovation High School in the amount of \$725,248. Accepted by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mr. Hoyt. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

Discussion and Vote on objected line items:

District Administration:

Mrs. Marinopoulos spoke about the position of Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent and indicated that the posted position description included responsibility to serve as Secretary to the School Committee.

Motion by Mrs. Marinopoulos, seconded by Ms. LaValley to reduce the School Secretary stipend by \$5,000. Motion withdrawn.

The FY19 budget for the Superintendent's Administrative Assistant position was \$39,247. Ms. LaValley asked for clarification on what posting was and timing related to partial year vs. full year salary. The revised budget number is the difference between posting partial vs. full year salary. Ms. Liporto shared that the funds provided by that stipend also pay for support for other projects such as processing transportation and food service applications. Superintendent Fulgoni described the responsibilities of the Administrative Assistant position and noted that there is considerably more to the role than just showing up and taking minutes.

Motion by Mrs. Marinopoulos, seconded by Ms. LaValley to reduce the School Committee Secretary line item to zero. Vote: 3, Yes; 4, Opposed (Mayor Gray,

Kisieleski, Lavoie, Hoyt) Motion fails.

Ms. LaValley's objection was related to the Facilities Director position which is no longer listed as a line item under District Administration but under Maintenance. Ms. LaValley withdrew her objection to the District Administration appropriation.

Ms. LaValley stated that the Attendance Officer position has saved the district over \$100,000. She recommended that the position be adjusted from 20 hours per week to 10 hours per week adding in \$8,731.50.

Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mrs. Marinopoulos to add in \$8,731.50 for 10 hours for the position of Attendance Officer. Vote: 4, Yes; 3, Opposed (Mayor Gray, Hoyt, Kisieleski) Motion carries.

Mr. Lavoie noted that the increase (\$245,000) in the District line is related to column moves and is being held in reserve for contract negotiations.

Motion by the Chair, to appropriate \$933,989 to District Administration. Accepted by Mr. Chamberlain, seconded by Mr. Lavoie. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

Amesbury Elementary School:

Mrs. Marinopoulos voiced her concern about the impact of the reductions at Amesbury Elementary. Specifically she expressed that with the elimination of both the Guidance position and the Building Coordinator role, as both of these positions do work related to 504s. She proposed that we add back in the reduction of the Guidance position at the amount of \$52,954. Additionally, this position would assume the role of Building Coordinator.

Motion by Mrs. Marinopoulos, seconded by Ms. LaValley to add in \$52,954 for position of Guidance/Building Coordinator. Discussion

Mr. Lavoie stated that it is clear that many AES parents and personnel viewed the cuts as a decimation of AES. This being his first time in the minute detail of the school budget, he is satisfied with the rationale and is in support of the proposed changes. Mrs. Marinopoulos expressed concern about who will help students that are reentering the school from traumatic situations and feels that there will not be enough supports. Ms. LaValley shared concern that it would be unfair to leave the new principal coming in to AES without these additional supports. Mr. Chamberlain spent considerable time reviewing the changes and is concerned. Mr. Hoyt acknowledged that there has been a change in the needs of students entering the building and that he has full confidence in the teaching staff and faculty knowing that excellent work will be done. He is also trying to be fiscally responsible as a School Committee member. Mr. Hoyt shared that he has full confidence in the leadership team in the Central Office and with the assurances that all students IEPs will continue to receive all of the services they require and after a great deal of thought, he is in support of the changes. Mrs. Marinopoulos asked Mr. Helliesen, Principal of AES, to share what he felt the impact would be of the guidance/building coordinator changes. Mr. Helliesen shared the history of the position

in recent years. Mrs. Marinopoulos expressed that the staff are amazing and that we cannot keep asking them to do more and more.

Motion by Mrs. Marinopoulos, seconded by Ms. LaValley to increase the Guidance salary line from \$83,129 to \$141,352 to include the building coordinator role in the guidance position. Vote: 3, Yes; 4, Opposed (Mayor Gray, Hoyt, Kisieleski, Lavoie) Motion not carried.

Motion by the Chair, to appropriate \$3,549,381 for Amesbury Elementary School. Accepted by Mr. Kisieleski, seconded by Mr. Lavoie. Vote: 6, Yes; 1 Opposed (Chamberlain) Ms. LaValley shared that she was voting in the affirmative so that she can address this at a future time. Motion carries.

Ms. LaValley stated that the \$60,000 that we need to budget for an unfunded mandate by the federal government of the McKinney-Vento transportation.

Amesbury High School:

Mrs. Marinopoulos shared some data she collected related to right-sizing that shows enrollment in surrounding communities and the number of Assistant Principals in each school. Mrs. Marinopoulos proposed that we eliminate the .5 Assistant Principal position and create a stand-alone .5 Athletic Director position.

Mr. Hoyt asked for a statement from the High School Principal about the impact of this change. Mrs. McAndrews shared that some of the data shared is incorrect or incomplete. While guidance does some of the social-emotional and adjustment counseling but both Assistant Principals and the Principal do as well. She shared that there is no such thing as a part-time Athletic Director as the responsibilities of this role extend outside of a part time schedule. The person currently in this role is here as many hours as two people.

Motion made by Mrs. Marinopoulos seconded by Mr. Chamberlain to eliminate the .5 Assistant Principal and create a stand-alone .5 Athletic Director at a salary of \$50,000 including insurance and benefits for an approximate total of \$71,000. Decrease AHS Principal line from \$327,630 to \$272,274 for a difference of \$55,256. Vote: 4, Yes; 3, Opposed (Mayor Gray, Hoyt, Lavoie) Motion carries.

Motion made by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to suspend the rules to go past 9:00 pm. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

Ms. LaValley challenged the administration to look at the overall administrative structure across the district. The hiring of a Facilities person will aid in the responsibilities of the athletic fields and outreach to the community. She expressed that this decision makes fiscal sense because of the decrease in enrollment over the years.

Motion by the Chair to appropriate \$4,747,969 to Amesbury High School. Accepted by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mr. Kisieleski Vote: 4, Yes; 3, Opposed (Mayor Gray, Hoyt, Lavoie) Motion carries.

Mrs. Marinopoulos stated that in light of this vote, she would like to reconsider the Amesbury Elementary School appropriation.

Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mrs. Marinopoulos to reconsider Amesbury Elementary School appropriation of \$3,549,381, adding back in \$58,223 to support addition of Guidance position. Vote: 3, Yes; 4, Opposed (Mayor Gray, Hoyt, Kisieleski, Lavoie) Motion fails.

Special Education:

Mrs. Marinopoulos withdrew her objection.

Mr. Chamberlain expressed concern about revolving account balances, particularly Circuit Breaker and the likelihood that there will be unanticipated expenses. His proposal was that we add \$200,000 to the private tuition line as a cushion for overages in the Circuit Breaker revolving account.

Motion by Mr. Chamberlain, seconded by Mrs. Marinopoulos to add \$200,000 to Tuition, Private to \$214,881 and total Special Education line to \$4,395,591. Vote: 3, Yes; 4, Opposed (Mayor Gray, Hoyt, Kisieleski, Lavoie) Motion fails.

Mayor Gray shared that there is currently \$300,000 in the stabilization fund for schools. The City has been consistently adding funds to this account to help support overages throughout the year. His plan is to replenish the account with \$200,000. This allows the City to provide the schools with the same buffer but the funds do not translate to tax increases. Mayor Gray also indicated that he will submit another supplemental to the City Council, these have a good track record of being approved.

Motion by the Chair, to appropriate \$4,195,591 to Special Education. Accepted by Mr. Lavoie seconded by Mr. Kisieleski. Vote: 5, Yes; 2, Opposed (Chamberlain, Marinopoulos)

Motion by the Chair, to appropriate \$32,586,145 to FY2020 (addition of .5 Attendance officer salary and reduction of .5 Assistant Principal). Accepted by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mr. Kisieleski. Vote: 4, Yes; 3, Opposed (Hoyt, Chamberlain, Marinopoulos)

VI. Informational Items

A. Subcommittee Reports

1. Finance Subcommittee:

FY20 School budget passed. Senator DiZoglio's office will be holding a meeting about Chapter 70 funding at the Salisbury Public Library. Mr. Chamberlain encouraged attendance.

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. The next meeting with the AFT Teachers/Nurses will be held on April 23. An executive strategy session will be held on April 17.

3. Buildings/Grounds Subcommittee:

The subcommittee has not met but plans to meet in May.

4. Policy Subcommittee:

Mr. Hoyt indicated that the next scheduled meeting is on May 29 but he hopes to schedule a meeting with Mrs. McAndrews and Mr. Gearin to discuss Policy JJIB before the May 6 School Committee meeting.

5. Curriculum Subcommittee:

Mrs. Marinopoulos shared that the subcommittee has not met.

6. Joint Ed:

The subcommittee (Ms. LaValley, Mr. Kisielecki and Mr. Chamberlain) met with several of the City Councilors. There was discussion about the Walker Report, work of the Special Education Director, new dyslexia determination guidelines, FY20 budget and deficit, school choice, reduction in Chapter 70 funds, maintenance shed, roof and HVAC issues, Circuit Breaker threshold, early college cohort, block schedule. The subcommittee will meet quarterly. Councilor Gilday will report back to the Council..

B. School Building Committee Report

- C. Mr. Hoyt shared that there was a Community Forum on March 25 which was well attended and the School Building Committee met on March 28. At that meeting, there was a vote on the Construction Delivery Management and the committee voted unanimously to move forward with the Design, Bid, Build method. The next meeting will be held on April 25 at 4:30 pm in the AHS Library.

VII. Future Meetings/Agenda Items

The next regularly scheduled School Committee meeting will be held on May 6, 2019. Subcommittees and other meetings will be held on the following dates:

1. Personnel Subcommittee Executive Session/contract negotiations -
April 23, 2019 at 4:00 pm followed by negotiations
2. AES School Building Committee – April 25, 2019 at 4:30 pm
AHS Library

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Kisielecki seconded by Mrs. Marinopoulos, to adjourn the meeting at 9:41 PM. Vote: Yes, unanimous

Respectfully Submitted,

Mayor Ken Gray, Chair